99th Congress, 2d Session - - - - - - - - - House Document No. 99-154

# PROCEEDINGS OF 67th NATIONAL CONVENTION of The AMERICAN LEGION

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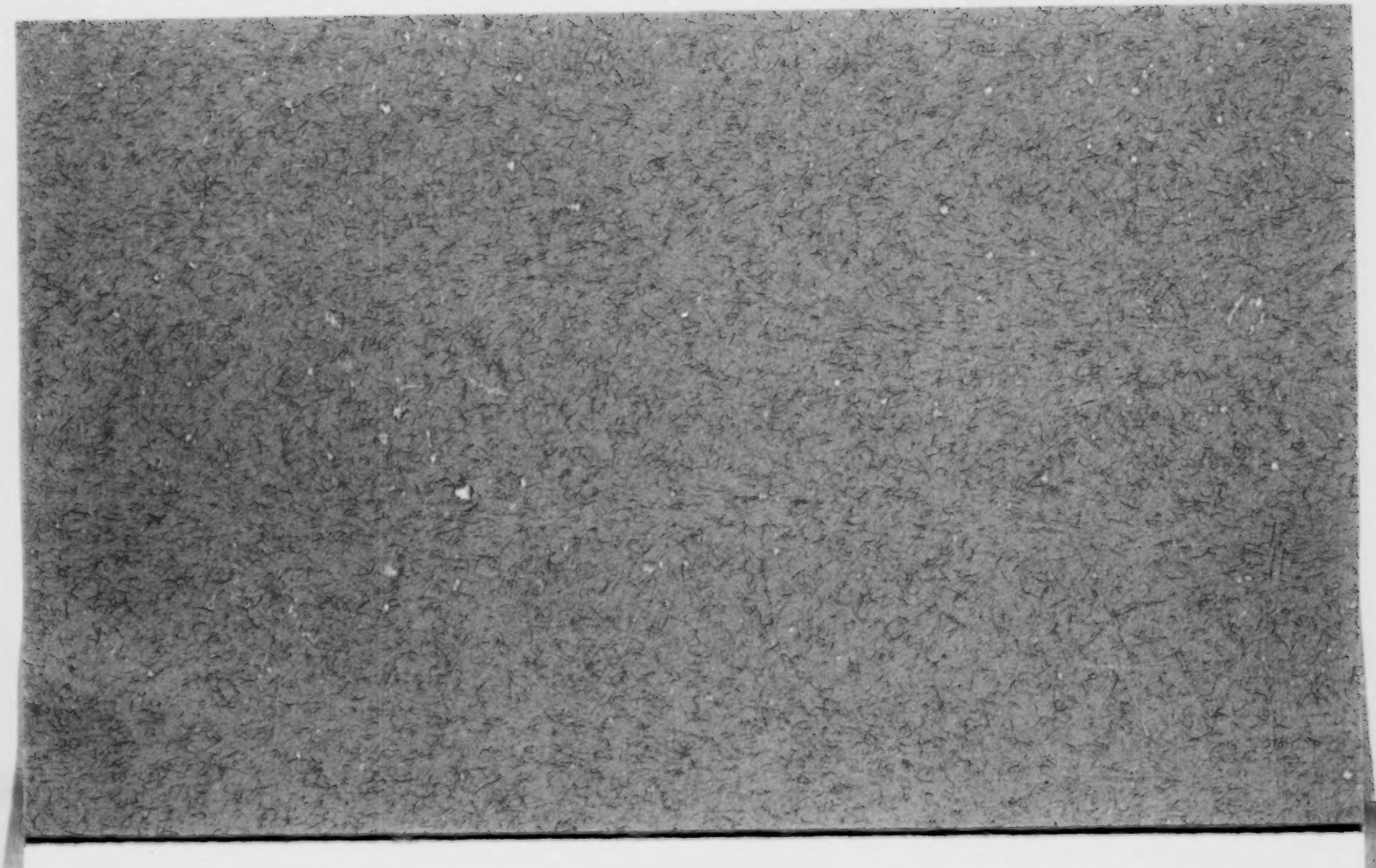

99th Congress, 2d Session - - - - - - - - - - - House Document No. 99-154

# PROCEEDINGS OF 67 *th* NATIONAL CONVENTION *of The* AMERICAN LEGION

New Orleans, Louisiana

August 26–28, 1985

JANUARY 28, 1986.—Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed, with illustrations.

57-215 O

READEX FICHE

## PUBLIC LAW NO. 105, EIGHTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the first section of the Act of March 2, 1931, as amended (44 U.S.C. 275b), is amended to read as follows:

"That hereafter the proceedings of the national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, the United Spanish War Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, The American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of World War I of the United States of America, Incorporated, and the Disabled American Veterans of the World War, respectively, shall be printed annually, with accompanying illustrations, as separate House documents of the session of the Congress to which they may be submitted."

SEC. 2. The last sentence of section 16 of Public Law 85-530 (36 U.S.C. 776), is repealed.

Approved August 27, 1963.

## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
*Washington, DC, January 22, 1986.*

Hon. THOMAS P. O'NEILL, Jr.
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,*
*The Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In compliance with current public law we herewith transmit for printing as a House document a financial statement and an independent audit of The American Legion, proceedings of our 67th annual National Convention, and a report on our organization's activities for the year preceding the Convention.

Sincerely,

E. PHILIP RIGGIN,
*Director, National Legislative Commission.*

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## PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

* * * * * * *

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, State, and Nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

* * * * * * *

# NATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND NATIONAL OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, 1919 TO 1983

NOTE.—In the following list it should be noted that the terms of each group of officers expire with that particular convention under which they are listed

## HONORARY COMMANDERS

*General John J. Pershing

*Marshall Ferdinand Foch

## PARIS CAUCUS

### Paris, France, March 15 to 17, 1919

Temporary Chairman: *Eric Fisher Wood, Pennsylvania. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1955 National Convention.)
Permanent Chairman: *Bennett C. Clark, Missouri. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1926 National Convention.)
Chairman Pro Tempore: *Thomas W. Miller, Delaware. (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1968 National Convention.)
Secretary: *Eric Fisher Wood, Pennsylvania. At the Paris Caucus an Executive Committee was elected to complete arrangements, the chairman and secretary of which were:
Chairman: *Milton J. Foreman, Illinois. (Voted title of Past National Commander at 1921 National Convention.)
Secretary: *George A. White, Oregon.

## ST. LOUIS CAUCUS

### St. Louis, Mo., May 8 to 10, 1919

Temporary Chairman: *Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., New York. (Voted title of Past National Commander at 31st Annual National Convention.)
Permanent Chairman: *Henry D. Lindsley, Texas.
Vice Chairman: *John J. Sullivan, Washington; Fred Humphrey, New Mexico; *P. C. Calhoun, Connecticut. (Voted titles of Past National Vice Commanders at 1933 National Convention.)
Secretary: *Eric Fisher Wood, Pennsylvania.
Chaplain: *Thomas H. Wiles, Colorado. (Voted title of Past National Chaplain at 1921 National Convention.)

## FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION

### Minneapolis, Minn., November 10 to 12, 1919

Chairman: *Henry D. Lindsley, Texas. (Voted title of Past National Commander 1919 National Convention.)
Vice Chairman: *Bennett C. Clark, Missouri.
Secretary: *Eric Fisher Wood, Pennsylvania.
Treasurer: *Gasper G. Bacon, Massachusetts.
Chaplain: *Thomas H. Wiles, Colorado.

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*Deceased.

## SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Cleveland, Ohio, September 27 to 29, 1920**

Commander: *Franklin D'Olier, Pennsylvania.
Vice Commanders: *James O'Brien, California; *Allen Tukey, Nebraska; *Joyce S. Lewis, Minnesota; Alden B. Chambers, Massachusetts; *William Follett, Oregon.
Adjutant: *Lemuel Bolles, Washington.
Treasurer: *Robert H. Tyndall, Indiana.
Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
Chaplain: *Rev. Francis A. Kelly, New York.

## THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Kansas City, Mo., October 31 to November 2, 1921**

Commander: *Frederick W. Galbraith, Jr., Ohio (Killed June 9), succeeded by *John G. Emery, Michigan.
Vice Commanders: John G. Emery, Michigan; *Thomas Goldingay, New Jersey; Claudius G. Pendill, Wisconsin; *James G. Schrugham, Nevada; E. Jackson Winslett, Alabama.
Adjutant: *Lemuel Bolles, Washington.
Treasurer: *Robert H. Tyndall, Indiana.
Chaplain: *Rev. John W. Inzer, Tennessee.
Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: *Robert A. Adams, Indiana.

## FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**New Orleans, La., October 16 to 20, 1922**

Commander: *Hanford MacNider, Iowa.
Vice Commanders: *H. Nelson Jackson, Vermont; *George L. Berry, Tennessee; *Raymond O. Brackett, Massachusetts; Charles H. Kindrick, California; *John A. McCormick, Colorado.
Adjutant: *Lemuel Bolles, Washington.
Treasurer: *Robert H. Tyndall, Indiana.
Chaplain: *Rev. Earl A. Blackman, Kansas.
Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: *Robert A. Adams, Indiana.

## FIFTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**San Francisco, Calif., October 16 to 19, 1923**

Commander: *Alvin Owsley, Texas.
Vice Commanders: *Edward J. Barrett, Wisconsin; *Watson B. Miller, District of Columbia; E. Erle Cocke, Sr., Georgia; *Robert O. Blood, New Hampshire; Chiles P. Plummer, Wyoming.
Adjutant: *Lemuel Bolles, Washington.
Treasurer: *Robert H. Tyndall, Indiana.
Chaplain: *Rev. Wm. F. O'Connor, Ohio.
Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: *Robert A. Adams, Indiana.

## SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**St. Paul, Minn., September 15 to 19, 1924**

Commander: John R. Quinn, California.
Vice Commanders: *Lester Albert, Idaho; Celora M. Stoddard, Arizona; *William B. Healey, Pennsylvania; F. Ryan Duff, Wisconsin; *Dr. I. Thurman Mann, North Carolina.
Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
Adjutant: *Lemuel Bolles, Washington.
Treasurer: *Robert H. Tyndall, Indiana.
Chaplain: *Rev. Ezra Clemens, Minnesota.
Judge Advocate: *Robert A. Adams, Indiana.

## SEVENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Omaha, Nebr., October 5 to 9, 1925**

Commander: James A. Drain, Washington.
Vice Commanders: *Frank H. McFarland, Kansas; *Eugene P. Armstrong, Connecticut; A. L. Perry, Panama; Payton H. Hoge, Jr., Kentucky; *William Stern, North Dakota.
Adjutant: *Russell G. Creviston, Indiana (resigned), succeeded by *James F. Barton, Iowa.
Treasurer: *Robert H. Tyndall, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Joseph M. Lonergan, Illinois.
Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: *Robert A. Adams, Indiana.

## EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Philadelphia, Pa., October 11 to 15, 1926**

Commander: John R. McQuizz, Ohio.
Vice Commanders: Joseph Y. Cheney, Florida; *Hughes B. Davis, Oklahoma; *Vincent A. Carroll, Pennsylvania; *Raymond B. Littlefield, Rhode Island; *James A. Howell, Utah.
Adjutant: *James F. Barton, Iowa.
Treasurer: *Robert H. Tyndall, Indiana.
Chaplain: *Rev. Wm. E. Patrick, California.
Historian: *Eben Putnam, Masachusetts.
Judge Advocate: *Robert A. Adams, Indiana.

## NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

**New York City, N.Y., October 18, 1927**

**Paris, France, September 19, to 22, 1927**

Commander: Howard P. Savage, Illinois.
Vice Commanders: *C. Thomas Busha, Jr., Montana; Stafford King, Minnesota; John G. Sims, Tennessee; *John E. Curtiss, Nebraska; *John G. Towne, Maine.
Adjutant: *James F. Barton, Iowa.
Treasurer: *Robert H. Tyndall, Indiana.
Chaplain: *Rev. Joseph L. N. Wolfe, Pennsylvania.
Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: *Robert A. Adams, Indiana

## 10TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**San Antonio, Tex., October 8 to 11, 1928**

Commander: *Edward E. Spafford, New York.
Vice Commanders: John T. Rafts, Washington; *Ralph T. O'Neil, Kansas; *Paul R. Younts, North Carolina; Dan Spurlock, Louisiana; *John M. Henry, Minnesota.
Adjutant: *James F. Barton, Iowa.
Chaplain: Rev. Gill Robb Wilson, New Jersey.
Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
Treasurer: *Bowman Elder, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Scott W. Lucas, Illinois.

## 11th ANNUAL CONVENTION

**Louisville, Ky., September 30 to October 2, 1929**

Commander: *Paul V. McNutt, Indiana.
Vice Commanders: Lawrence E. McGann, Jr., Illinois; *George W. Malone, Nevada; *Edward L. White, Connecticut; Miller C. Foster, South Carolina; Walton D. Hood, Texas.
Adjutant: *James F. Barton, Iowa.
Chaplain: Rabbi Lee J. Levinger, Ohio.
Treasurer: *Bowman Elder, Indiana.
Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: *Scott W. Lucas, Illinois.

## 12TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Boston, Mass., October 6 to 9, 1930**

Commander: *O.L. Bodenhammer, Arkansas.
Vice Commanders: *Milt D. Campbell, Ohio; John J. Dugan, Delaware; *Morton M. David, Colorado; *Frank Schoble, Jr., Pennsylvania; Willis M. Brewer, Michigan.
Adjutant: *James F. Barton, Iowa.
Chaplain: *Rev. George K. Kettell, D.D., New York.
Treasurer: *Bowman Elder, Indiana.
Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: *Scott W. Lucas, Illinois.

## 13TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Detroit, Mich., September 21 to 24, 1931**

Commander: *Ralph T. O'Neil, Kansas.
Vice Commanders: Bert S. Hyland, Vermont; *Roland B. Howell, Louisiana; *Harry B. Henderson, Jr., Wyoming; *Dr. James A. Duff, West Virginia; *Dr. Neal D. Williams, Missouri.
Adjutant: *James Barton, Iowa.
Chaplain: Rev. Jos. N. Barnett, Wisconsin.
Treasurer: *Bowman Elder, Indiana.
Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: *Scott W. Lucas, Illinois.

## 14TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Portland, Oreg., September 12 to 15, 1932**

Commander: *Henry L. Stevens, Jr., North Carolina
Vice Commanders: *Richard F. Paul, Massachusetts; *Forest G. Cooper, Mississippi; Roy L. Cook, New Mexico; *Frank N. Brooks, Washington; *Harold L. Plummer, Wisconsin.
Adjutant: *James F. Barton, Iowa.
Chaplain: *Rev. H.A. Darche, Illinois.
Treasurer: *Bowman Elder, Indiana.
Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts.
Judge Advocate: Remster A. Bingham, Indiana.

## 15TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Chicago, Ill., October 2 to 5, 1933**

Commander: *Louis Johnson, West Virginia.
Vice Commanders: Russel Meadows, Arizona; Robert D. Flory, Nebraska; *Wm. Easterwood, Texas; *John J. Maloney, Maine; *Chas. A. Mills, Florida.
Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Irving Q. Wood, Idaho.
Treasurer: *Bowman Elder, Indiana.
Historian: *Eben Putnam, Massachusetts (died January 22, 1933), succeeded by *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
Judge Advocate: Remster A. Bingham, Indiana.

## 16TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Miami, Fla., October 22 to 25, 1934**

Commander: *Edward A. Hayes, Illinois.
Vice Commanders: *Charles R. Mabey, Utah; Robert L. Gordon, Arkansas; Miguel Munoz, Puerto Rico; *Ed W. Carruth, Kansas; Charles L. Woolley, Rhode Island.
Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
Chaplain: Rev. Robert J. White, Massachusetts.
Historian: *Thomas M. Owens, Jr., Alabama.
Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Remster A. Bingham, Indiana.

## 17TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**St. Louis, Mo., September 23 to 26, 1935**

Commander: *Frank N. Belgrano, Jr., California.
Vice Commanders: *Daniel J. Doherty, Massachusetts; Harold J. Warner, Oregon; *John K. Kennelly, North Dakota; Milo J. Warner, Ohio; Quimby Melton, Georgia.
Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
Chaplain: *Rev. Park W. Huntington, Delaware.
Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
Treasurer: *James A. Drain, Washington.
Judge Advocate: *James A. Drain, Washington.

## 18TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Cleveland, Ohio, September 21 to 24, 1936**

Commander: *Ray Murphy, Iowa.
Vice Commanders: *Raymond F. Gates, Connecticut; *Dr. W.E. Whitlock, Florida; Oscar W. Worthwine, Idaho; Dr. F. Whitney Godwin, Virginia; *Louis R. Probst, Wyoming.
Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
Chaplain: *Rev. Thos. D. Kennedy, Missouri.
Historian: *Thomas D. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 19TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**New York, N.Y., September 20 to 23, 1937**

Commander: *Harry W. Colmery, Kansas.
Vice Commanders: *Salvatore Capodice, California; *Leo A. Temmey, South Dakota; *Leonard Sisk, Tennessee; *J. Fred Johnson, Jr., Alabama; *Jack Crowley, Vermont.
Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
Chaplain: *Rev. Bryan H. Keathley, Texas.
Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 20TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Los Angeles, Calif., September 19 to 22, 1938**

Commander: *Daniel J. Doherty, Massachusetts.
Vice Commanders: Drury M. Phillips, Texas; Phil Conley, West Virginia; *Harry M. Johnson, Montana; *James F. Daniel, Jr., South Carolina; *James R. Mahaffey, Hawaii.
Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
Chaplain: *Rev. Frank J. Lawler, Illinois.
Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 21ST NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Chicago, Ill., September 25 to 28, 1939**

Commander: *Stephen F. Chadwick, Washington.
Vice Commanders: *Edward J. Quinn, Maine; Charles W. Crush, Virginia; *Earl T. Ross, Nevada; *James T. Crawley, Mississippi; Henry C. Oakey, Wisconsin.
Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
Chaplain: *Rev. Jerome L. Fritsche, Nebraska.
Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 22D NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Boston, Mass., September 23 to 26, 1940**

Commander: Raymond J. Kelly, Michigan.
Vice Commanders: *Leo E. Ray, New Hampshire; *Charles Q. Kelly, Arkansas; *Matthew J. Murphy, Illinois; *James B. Fitzgerald, Maryland; H. Elwyn Davis, Colorado.
Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
Chaplain: *Rev. Patrick N. McDermott, Iowa.
Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 23D NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Milwaukee, Wis., September 15 to 18, 1941**

Commander: Milo J. Warner, Ohio.
Vice Commanders: Erwin A. Froyd, Wyoming; James L. McCrory, Nebraska; *Harold P. Redden, Massachusetts; *Edward R. Stirling, Pennsylvania; *Alice S. Legendre, Louisiana.
Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
Chaplain: Brigadier William G. Gilks, Texas.
Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 24TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Kansas City, Mo., September 19 to 21, 1942**

Commander: *Lynn U. Stambaugh, North Dakota.
Vice Commanders: W. C. Sawyer, Arizona; *DeLacy Allen, Georgia; Charles E. Booth, West Virginia; *V. M. Armstrong, Indiana; *John F. Sullivan, Vermont.
Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas.
Chaplain: *Rev. Frederick J. Halloran, New Jersey.
Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 25TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Omaha, Nebr., September 21 to 23, 1943**

Commander: *Roanne Waring, Tennessee.
Vice Commanders: John T. Batten, Alabama; *Arthur J. Connell, Connecticut; *Fred G. Fraser, District of Columbia; *Herman H. Lark, Missouri; *Jefferson Davis Atwood, New Mexico.
Adjutant: *Frank E. Samuel, Kansas (died July 25), succeeded by *Donald G. Glascoff, Michigan, Acting Adjutant.
Chaplain: *Rev. Paul De Forrest, Mortimore, Idaho.
Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 26TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Chicago, Ill., September 18 to 20, 1944**

Commander: Warren H. Atherton, California.
Vice Commanders: *Martin V. Coffey, Ohio; *M. E. Littlefield, Utah; *Robert (LeRoy) McMillan, North Carolina; Edward A. Mulrooney, Delaware; *Hector G. Staples, Maine.
Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff, Michigan.
Chaplain: *Rev. Paul F. McManus, Kansas.
Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 27TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Chicago, Ill., November 18 to 21, 1945**

Commander: *Edward N. Scheiberling, New York.
Vice Commanders: Basom F. Jones, Tennessee; Frank E. McCuffrey, Rhode Island; *Dan M. McDade, Oregon; *Ray S. Plerson, Kansas; *William P. Shadoan, Kentucky.
Adjutant: *Donald G. Glascoff, Michigan.
Chaplain: *Rev. DeWitt C. Mallory, Florida.
Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
Treasurer: *John Ruddick, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 28TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**San Francisco, Calif., September 30 to October 4, 1946**

Commander: *John Stelle, Illinois.
Vice Commanders: *R. Graham Huntington, New Jersey; Fred LaBoom, Oklahoma; *Sam L. Latimer, Jr., South Carolina; *H. Dudley Swim, Idaho; *Jeremiah Twomey, Massachusetts.
Adjutant: *Donald G. Glascoff, Michigan.
Chaplain: *Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Smith, Iowa.
Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 29TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**New York, N.Y., August 28 to 31, 1947**

Commander: *Paul H. Griffith, Pennsylvania.
Vice Commanders: Joseph W. Brown, New Hampshire; Martin B. Buckner, Michigan; Richard C. Cadwallader, Louisiana; Earnest H. Derishian, Virginia; Edward J. Sharkey, California.
Adjutant: *Donald G. Glascoff, Michigan.
Chaplain: *Rev. Arthur L. Rustad, Minnesota.
Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 30TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Miami, Fla., October 18 to 20, 1948**

Commander: James F. O'Neill, New Hampshire.
Vice Commanders: L. W. Barns, South Dakota; *Albert A. Cree, Vermont; Richard B. Ott, Washington; Myron R. Renick, West Virginia; Joe W. White, Georgia.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley, Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rev. Father Frank J. Harrington, Montana.
Historian: *Thomas M. Owen, Jr., Alabama.
Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 31ST NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Philadelphia, Pa., August 29 to September 1, 1949**

Commander: Perry Brown, Texas.
Vice Commanders: James Lane, Alabama; Leonard W. Moody, Arkansas; James Annin; *Walter E. Alessandroni, Pennsylvania.
Adjutant: *Harry H. Dudley, Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rev. Thomas Grice, California.
Historian: *Monte C. Sandlin, Alabama.
Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 32D NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Los Angeles, Calif., October 9 to 12, 1950**

Commander: George N. Craig, Indiana.
Vice Commanders: Milton G. Boock, Minnesota; *David H. Fleisher, Missouri; Frank E. Lowe, Maine; J.E. Martie, Nevada; *Dr. D.R. Perry, North Carolina.
Adjutant: *Henry H. Dudley, Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rev. Edward J. Carney, O.S.A., Massachusetts.
Historian: *Monte C. Sandlin, Alabama.
Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 33D NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Miami, Fla., October 15 to 18, 1951**

Commander: Erle Cocke, Jr., Georgia.
Vice Commanders: *Joe Adama, Florida; *Herbert J. Jacobi, District of Columbia; Felix Pogliano, Colorado; *Lewis K. Gough, California; Fred C. Bramlage, Kansas.
Adjutant: *Henry H. Dudley, Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rabbi David Lefkowitz, Louisiana.
Historian: *Monte C. Sandlin, Alabama.
Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 34TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**New York, N.Y., August 25 to 28, 1952**

Commander: Donald B. Wilson, West Virginia.
Vice Commanders: Adolph F. Bremer, Minnesota; Frank R. Kelley, Massachusets; *Thomas E. Paradine, New York; *Oscar B. Rohiff, Wyoming; *Audrey H. Ward, South Carolina.
Adjutant: *Henry H. Dudley, Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rev. Olaf G. Birkeland, Wisconsin.
Historian: *Monte C. Sandlin, Alabama.
Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 35TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**St. Louis, Mo., August 31 to September 3, 1953**

Commander: *Lewis K. Gough, California.
Vice Commanders: *William R. Bourdon, Arizona; Lyon W. Brandon, Mississippi; Wilbur C. Daniel, Virginia; Harry V. Groome, New Jersey; J. Addington Wagner, Michigan.
Adjutant: *Henry H. Dudley, Nebraska.
Chaplain: *Rev. Father John E. Duff, Ohio.
Historian: *Monte C. Sandlin, Alabama.
Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 36TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Washington, D.C., August 30 to September 2, 1954**

Commander: *Authur J. Connell, Connecticut.
Vice Commanders: *John A. High, New Hampshire; Dr. Deward H. Reed, New Mexico; Truman C. Wold, North Dakota; *Thomas W. Bird, North Carolina.
Adjutant: *Henry H. Dudley, Nebraska.
Chaplain: Dr. Tom B. Clark, Oklahoma.
Historian: *Robert T. Fairey, South Carolina.
Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 37TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Miami, Fla., October 10 to 13, 1955**

Commander: Seaborn P. Collins, New Mexico.
Vice Commanders: *Leonard L. Jackson, Louisiana; Patrick H. Mangan, Jr., Vermont; Howard C. Kingdom, Ohio; Dr. Carl J. Rees, Delaware; Robert L. Shelby, Utah.
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley, Nebraska.
Chaplain: Rev. Albert J. Hoffmann, Iowa.
Historian: *Robert T. Fairey, South Carolina.
Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 38TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Los Angeles, Calif., September 3 to 6, 1956**

Commander: J. Addington Wagner, Michigan.
Vice Commanders: Guy Stone, Georgia; John G. Van Horn, Alaska; L. Everett Page, Texas; *Gilman H. Stordock, Wisconsin; James V. Day, Maine (resigned Jan. 1, 1956), succeeded by William J. Holliman, District of Columbia.
Adjutant: *Henry H. Dudley, Nebraska (resigned), succeeded by *E.A. Blackmore, Wyoming.
Chaplain: *Rev. Joseph MacCarroll, New Jersey.
Historian: *Robert T. Fairey, South Carolina.
Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 39TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Atlantic City, N.J., September 16 to 19, 1957**

Commander: W.C. "Dan" Daniel, Virginia.
Vice Commanders: *Gaylor M. Brown, Iowa; George T. Lewis, Jr., Tennessee; *Carl R. Moser, Oregon; John P. Stay, Pennsylvania; J. Edward Walter, Maryland.
Adjutant: *E.A. Blackmore, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. Bernark W. Gerdon, Indiana.
Historian: *Robert T. Fairey, South Carolina.
Treasurer: *Neal Grider, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 40TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Chicago, Ill., September 1 to 4, 1958**

Commander: John S. Gleason, Jr., Illinois.
Vice Commanders: *William A. Cottrell, Territory of Hawaii; Ramon R. Guas, Puerto Rico; Harry W. Miller, West Virginia; Lee A. Lemos, Rhode Island, *Isador Levin, Indiana.
Adjutant: *E.A. Blackmore, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. Feltham S. James, South Carolina.
Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert, New Jersey.
Treasurer: Neal Grider, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 41ST NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Minneapolis, Minn., August 24 to 27, 1959**

Commander: Preston J. Moore, Oklahoma.
Vice Commanders: C.D. DeLoach, District of Columbia; John W. Collins, Pennsylvania; James B. Kerrigan, Missouri; Robert Charles Smith, Louisiana; James C. Bangs, Idaho.
Adjutant: *E.A. Blackmore, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Twiss, Massachusetts.
Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert, New Jersey.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: *Ralph B. Gregg, Indiana.

## 42D NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Miami Beach, Fla., October 18 to 20, 1960**

Commander: Martin B. McKneally, New York.
Vice Commanders: William A. Brennan, Jr., Indiana; A. Layman Harman, South Carolina; *Nate V. Keller, Minnesota; †Irven Frank Gianotti, Minnesota; Willard W. Brandt, North Dakota; *Charles C. McGonegal, California; ††Corydon T. Hill, California.
Adjutant: *E.A. Blackmore, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rabbi Robert I. Kahn, D.H.L., Texas.
Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert, New Jersey.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

## 43D NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Denver, Colo., September 9 to 14, 1961**

Commander: William R. Burke, California.
Vice Commanders: George K. Walker, Massachusetts; James M. Wagonseller, Ohio; Vincent J. Maxheim, Iowa; Dr. Harry H. Kretzler, Washington; R. C. Godwin, North Carolina.
Adjutant; E. A. Blackmore, Wyoming.
Chaplain: The Reverend Wm. H. Moss, Tennessee.
Historian: Glenn B. Hoover, Iowa.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

## 44TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Las Vegas, Nev., October 5 to 11, 1962**

Commander: Charles L. Bacon, Missouri.
Vice Commanders: *Walter W. Barnard, Montana; Edward T. Hoak, Pennsylvania; Wilson H. Morrison, Michigan; J. Milton Patrick, Oklahoma; Edward Wysocki, New Jersey.
Adjutant: E. A. Blackmore, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. Father Robert G. Keating, Connecticut.
Historian: *Earl Davis Young, Colorado.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

## 45TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Miami Beach, Fla., September 6 to 12, 1963**

**Las Vegas, Nev., October 5 to 11, 1962**

Commander: James E. Powers, Georgia.
Vice Commanders: Harold D. Beaton, District of Columbia; *James D. Doon, New Hampshire; Claude D. Hamilton, South Dakota; Paschal C. Reese, Florida; *Victor F. Whittlesea, Nevada.
Adjutant: *E. A. Blackmore, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rabbi Albert M. Shulman, Indiana.
Historian: H. Armand de Masi.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

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† Appointed Sept. 14, 1960, to fill the vacancy created on July 25 by the death of National Vice Commander Nate V. Keller.
†† Appointed May 4, 1960, to fill the vacancy created on Jan. 27, by the death of National vice Commander Charles McGonegal.

## 46TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Dallas, Tex., September 22 to 24, 1964**

Commander: Daniel F. Foley, Minnesota.
Vice Commanders: Earl D. Franklin, Jr., Colorado; Emilio S. Iglesias, Vermont; *Garland D. Murphy, Jr., M.D., Arkansas; George Emory Sipple, Wisconsin; Harry Wright, Mexico.
Adjutant: *E. A. Blackmore, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. John J. Howard, Virginia.
Historian: H. Armand de Masi, Italy.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

## 47TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Portland, Oreg., August 24 to 26, 1965**

Commander: Donald E. Johnson, Iowa.
Vice Commanders: *David Aronberg, Kentucky; *Herbert D. Black, South Carolina; Ward W. Husted, Wyoming; Edward H. Lynch, Jr., Connecticut; *Joseph Paul, Michigan.
Adjutant: *E. A. Blackmore, Wyoming.
Chaplain: Rev. Father Morris N. Dummet, Louisiana.
Historian: *Harold A. Shindler, Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

## 48TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Washington, D.C., August 30 to September 1, 1966**

Commander: L. Eldon James, Virginia.
Vice Commanders: *Dr. A. R. Choppin, Louisiana; William E. Galbraith, Nebraska; Robert O. Phillips, Philippines; William J. Rogers, Maine; Soleng Tom, Arizona.
Adjutant: *E. A. Blackmore, Wyoming.
Chaplain: The Rev. Alfred C. Thompson, New York.
Historian: *Harold A. Shindler, Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

## 49TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Boston, Mass., August 29 to 31, 1967**

Commander: John E. Davis, North Dakota.
Vice Commanders: Robert M. Fritz, Indiana; Lewis W. Emerich, Texas; Harry V. Klein Jr., Pennsylvania; Frank L. Orfanello, Massachusetts; *James A. Tadlock, New Mexico.
Adjutant: Earnest N. Schmit, North Dakota.
Chaplain: *The Rev. Fr. Anthony J. O'Driscoll, New York.
Historian: *Harold A Shindler, Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

## 50TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**New Orleans, La., September 6 to 12, 1968**

Commander: William E. Galbraith, Nebraska.
Vice Commanders: Coleman Nolen, Oklahoma; Louis R. H. Malo, Rhode Island; Roscoe D. Curtiss, Tennessee; Dr. Edwin L. Peterson, Utah; Marvin W. Roth, Wisconsin.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Edward P. Nolan, Pennsylvania.
Historian: *Harold A Shindler, Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

## 56TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Miami Beach, Fla., August 20 to 22, 1974**

Commander: Robert E. L. Easton, Maryland.
Vice Commanders: C. Russell Huber, Arkansas; *John A. Jones, West Virginia; Howard E. Lohman, Minnesota; Lewis E. McCray, Alabama; *Maurice R. Parisien, Maine.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. C. J. Olander, Mississippi.
Historian: *Harold A. Shindler, Indiana.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

## 52D NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Portland, Oreg., August 28 to September 3, 1970**

Commander: J. Milton Patrick, Oklahoma.
Vice Commanders: Kent T. Lundgren, Michigan; Roland D. Marble, Mississippi; Raymond F. Mudge, New Hampshire; Earl R. Norgard, Oregon; Gilberto M. Font, Puerto Rico.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Father William D. Curtis, Minnesota.
Historian: *John A. May, South Carolina.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

## 53D NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Houston, Tex., August 27 to September 2, 1971**

Commander: Alfred P. Chamie, California.
Vice Commanders: Claude Carpenter Arkansas; May Hanson, Idaho; Robert E. L. Eaton, Maryland; Gabriel T. Olga, Massachusetts; John E. Gilbert, Pennsylvania.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Milton B. Faust, North Carolina.
Historian: Howard M. Swinney, Kentucky.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

## 54TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Chicago, Ill., August 22 to 24, 1972**

Commander: John H. Geiger, Illinois.
Vice Commanders: Harold W. Fann, Kentucky; Arthur M. MacCarthy, Florida; Roy Sweet, Vermont; Harry G. Wiles, Kansas; Wallace C. S. Young, Hawaii.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Paul J. Schwaab, Nebraska.
Historian: G. Greer McCallister, Ohio.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

## 55TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Honolulu, Hawaii, August 21 to 23, 1973**

Commander: Joe L. Matthews, Texas.
Vice Commanders: Tim T. Craig, North Carolina; *Sam Gray, California; Donald L. Gruenbaum, Ohio; Albert J. Moeller, New Jersey; Raymond J. Novak, South Dakota.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. L. P. Fitzpatrick, Iowa.
Historian: Mrs. Loretta O. Phillips, California.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

### 51ST NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Atlanta, Ga., August 22 to 28, 1969**

Commander: William C. Doyle, New Jersey.
Vice Commanders: John N. Roberto, Connecticut; Frank C. Brooks, Washington; Gilbert E. Sheeks, Indiana; Merrick W. Swords, Louisiana; N. E. Brown, South Carolina.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Jerome D. Fortenberry, Missouri.
Historian: R. Robert Filter, Wisconsin.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

### 57TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Minneapolis, Minn., August 19 to 21, 1975**

Commander: James M. Wagonseller, Ohio.
Vice Commanders: Boyd H. Clemens, North Dakota; Jack W. Flynt, Texas; Jay E. Harville, Tennessee; Donald H. Jeffrey, Pennsylvania; William A. Lindsay, Montana.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Harvey T. Goodling, Oregon.
Historian: Nolie C. Deas, Sr., Florida.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

### 58TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Seattle, Wash., August 24 to 26, 1976**

Commander: Harry G. Wiles, Kansas.
Vice Commanders: John W. Adams, Jr., Kentucky; Fred W. Anderson, Jr., Nevada; Leo F. Malloy, Massachusetts; Thomas W. Miller, Arkansas; James F. Walker, Minnesota.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. Claude E. Smithmier, Georgia.
Historian: Mrs. Dorothy Crimes, Colorado.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

### 59TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Denver, Colo., August 23 to 25, 1977**

Commander: William J. Rogers, Maine
Vice Commanders: Lloyd J. Berken, Wisconsin, Thomas B. Coll, District of Columbia; Robert B. Grauberger, Colorado; Frank A. Kelly, Georgia; Wilbur Walker, Virginia.
Adjutant: William F. Hauck, Indiana.
Chaplain: Fr. James C. Tuxbury, North Dakota.
Historian: Alton H. Carpenter, New York.
Treasurer: Francis Polen, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

### 60TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**New Orleans, La., August 22 to 24, 1978**

Commander: Robert Charles Smith, Louisiana.
Vice Commanders: Eugene V. Lindquist, Minnesota; Roger A. Munson, Ohio; John J. O'Connell, Rhode Island; Chester Phillips, West Virginia; Irving B. Selmer, Wyoming.
Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen, Minnesota.
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Walter D. Power, Maryland.
Historian: Arnold J. Stockstad, North Dakota.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

## 61ST NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Houston, Tex., August 21 to 23, 1979**

Commander: Jack M. Carey, Michigan.
Vice Commanders: L. Max Connoly, Arizona; Alvin F. Grauerholz, Kansas; Joseph F. Ward, New Jersey; John H. Weinand, Jr., Alabama; Nathan M. Wolfe, South Carolina.
Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen, Minnesota.
Chaplain: R. Drew Wolcott, Mexico.
Historian: Harry H. Kretzler, M.D., Washington.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

## 62D NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Boston, Mass., August 19 to 21, 1980**

Commander: Frank I. Hamilton, Indiana.
Vice Commanders: G.Y. Falls, New Mexico; Keith A. Kreul, Wisconsin; Bob Legan, Arkansas; Max E. Robinson, North Carolina; Laurence R. Spaulding, New Hampshire.
Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen, Minnesota.
Chaplain: Rev. Karl E. Kniseley, California.
Historian: Phillip Haddad Oklahoma.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.

## 63D NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Honolulu, Hawaii, September 1 to 3, 1981**

Commander: Michael J. Kogutek, New York.
Vice Commanders: Ralph M. Godwin, Mississippi; Keigh H. Gwilliam, Utah, Matthew W. Jamieson, Michigan; Robert W. Lowery, Nebraska; Dr. Almo J. Sebastianelli, Pennsylvania.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.
Chaplain: Rev. George S. Macres, Minnesota.
Historian: Neal S. Sundeen, Arizona.
Sergeant-at-Arms: R. M. "Sonny" Singleton, Jr. South Carolina.

## 64TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Chicago, Ill., August 24 to 26, 1982**

Commander: Jack W. Flynt, Texas.
Vice Commanders: Frank T. Markovich, Missouri; Dan C. McDonough, Alaska; Percy C. Miller, Tennessee; Melvin "Doc" Simon, Vermont; David A. Wade, Maryland.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. George R. M. Rumney, Virginia.
Historian: Bernard J. Chisholm, Minnesota.
Sergeant at-Arms: Herbert W. Odell, Texas.

## 65TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Seattle, Wash., August 23 to 25, 1983**

Commander: Al Keller, Jr., Illinois.
Vice Commanders: Robert C. Gabrielson, South Dakota; Margaret M. Malone, New Jersey; H. Melvin Napier, Indiana; Jack C. Plato, Oregon; Lee O. Walker, Oklahoma.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis, New York.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Chaplain: Rev. John D. Kempf, Ohio.
Historian: James W. Conway, Massachusetts.
Sergeant at-Arms: Gary L. Walling, Illinois.

## 66TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Salt Lake City, Utah, September 3 to 5, 1984**

Commander: Keith Kreul, Wisconsin.
Vice Commanders: J. Leslie Brown, Jr., Kentucky; Roberto Ganzalez, Puerto Rico; Charles R. Green, Ohio; Robert W. Groccia, Massachusetts; John N. Lockhart, Hawaii.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Chaplain: James Clay McKee, Utah.
Historian: Herberta T. Stark, New Hampshire.
Sergeant-at-Arms: Kenneth Gassman, Wisconsin.

## 67TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

**New Orleans, La., August 26 to 28, 1985**

Commander: Dale L. Renaud, Iowa.
Vice Commanders: Bernard Black, South Carolina; Norman Conn, California; Vito M. DeFilipp, Maine; Miles S. Epling, West Virginia, H.F. Gierke, North Dakota.
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan.
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland.
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana.
Chaplain: Dr. Gordon L. Patterson, Nebraska.
Historian: Ethel M. Matuschka, Wisconsin.
Sergeant-at-Arms: Peter G. Hass, Iowa.

# PROCEEDINGS

## MONDAY SESSION — AUGUST 26, 1985

NATIONAL COMMANDER CLARENCE M. BACON: The 67th Annual Convention of The American Legion will come to order.

. . . At this time the house and stage lights were turned out and the AV presentation began for the entertainment of the Delegates.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Please rise.

Color Guard at this time, would you please advance the Colors of the United States of America.

Right hand, salute.

. . . The Colors were advanced by the Highlanders Senior Color Guard from Louisville, Kentucky.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The Colors being in place, the Delegates will join with me in singing the National Anthem, the Star Spangled Banner, led by Scott Detweiler of New Orleans, Louisiana.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: At this time I would like to call upon the National Chaplain of The American Legion, Rev. Charles G. Rice of New York.

### INVOCATION

**Rev. Charles G. Rice, Jr., New York**
**National Chaplain**

Let us pray. Almighty God, be with us this morning as we open the 67th Annual National Convention of The American Legion. May the things that we have already accomplished be a great proof for The American Legion, for all veterans, and for all honest citizens of our land.

May what we do here in our deliberations for the next three days add strength and courage and patriotism to that testimony.

Our country needs our strength and our resolve that nothing shall swerve us from the paths of justice, freedom and democracy. Make us the champions of truth wherever we go and against whatever we do, Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Will you please join with me now with the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

. . . At this time the Delegates stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States.

### LIGHTING OF PEACE CANDLE

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN REV. CHARLES G. RICE, JR.: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in whose hands are the living and the dead. We give thee thanks for all those Thy servants who have laid down their lives in the service of our country.

Grant to them now Thy mercy, the light of Thy presence, that the good work which Thou has begun in them may be perfected in all the things that we do in carrying on that tradition.

Would you light the peace candle please.

. . . At this time the Peace Candle was lighted.

. . . The Color Guard retired.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Fellow Legionnaires, now please join with me in reaffirmation of the principles of The American Legion.

. . . The Delegation stood and recited the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: I should now like to call upon the National Adjutant, Mr. Robert W. Spanogle of Michigan who will now call for the 67th Annual National Convention.

### CONVENTION CALL

NATIONAL ADJUTANT ROBERT W. SPANOGLE: Read the Call.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you, Mr. Adjutant. I now declare the 67th Annual National Convention to The American Legion to be regularly convened.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: I would like now to introduce some people who represent various segments of our host city of New Orleans and our host Department of Louisiana.

Our first guest is truly a man of accomplishment. Chairman of the First District Convention Corporation, and he certainly is a gentleman of accomplishment.

He joined The American Legion in 1947, after his discharge from the Army where he served in the Philippines and in Japan.

He has been a District Commander, Department Commander, and presently he is a member of the National Legislative Commission.

### MERRICK SWORDS, JR.

**President of The American Legion First District Convention Corporation of Louisiana**

Thank you, Commander Bacon, distinguished guests, My fellow Legionnaries, ladies and gentlemen, the First District Convention Corporation of Louisiana is proud to host the 67th Annual Convention of The American Legion. We are proud that The American Legion has for the fourth occasion in its 67 year history chosen New Orleans to hold it annual meeting. We look forward to your successful meeting, we look forward to renewing old and making new acquaintances, and we just hope that this convention will rank and go down as one of the greatest conventions that we have had in recent years. Thank you, and welcome.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: We now have joining us a Legionnaire who has done a great deal for the Department of Louisiana. As 1984-85 Department Commander he has been involved in many activities which have brought us the convention that we are enjoying today.

### ROY KIRKHAM

**Immediate Past Department Commander of the Department of Louisiana**

Thank you, Commander Bacon. Distinguished guests, Delegates to this 67th Annual Convention, I bring you greetings from the nearly 47 thousand Legionnaries that make up the great Department of Louisiana, a Department growing in size and proudly supporting the ideals of The American Legion, our great organization.

Some of us are called Cajuns, which is not a derogatory term, and other are called Rednecks, but we are all Louisianians and proud to be here to welcome you to the 67th Annual Convention of The American Legion.

May your stay be educational, profitable and enjoyable, especially the latter. Every Legionnaire whose cap displays the proud pelican is your Ambassador to Louisiana and plan to help you enjoy your stay in our great state.

We are famous for our friendship and hospitality, and Louisiana can provide for almost your every need and desire. If we cannot you didn't need it in the first place.

Our mottos say that Louisiana is a great state and a sportman's paradise. Hopefully you will visit with us after the convention to learn the truth of these claims. Admittedly our weather can be a little warm this time of year but it changes hourly and soon you enjoy it. Those of you who are from the north will remember this when the storms and snow arrive up there.

Legionnaires of the First District Convention Corporation in the New Orleans area have put many hours of planning into this convention. I wish to thank them for a job well done and for what I am sure will be a most outstanding convention. If there is anything that I or any of our Louisiana Legionnaires can do to make your stay with us a more pleasant one you have but to ask.

In closing may I say welcome and thank you all for being here. In Louisiana we say, "Let the good times roll." Thank you.

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**REPORT TO CONVENTION**

**Clarence M. Bacon**
**National Commander, The Amerian Legion**

My fellow Legionnaires, a year ago, when you elected me as your National Commander . . . I pledged that, working together, as a team we would keep The American Legion shining, as a beacon of hope and inspiration for all of America. It is my privilege this morning to report to you that we have accomplished that goal.

Thanks to each and every one of you, and especially those grassroots Legionnaires at the Department and Post levels, we also have made significant achievements in many areas.

This year we have turned around the trend of declining membership and have witnessed the single largest increase in our membership since 1946.

In an effort to re-evaluate membership eligibility, we established a study committee, which worked diligently and comprehensively . . . and in a reaffirmation of The American Legion's role as a wartime veterans organization, your National Executive Committee overwhelmingly voted to keep eligibility dates as they are now defined in our Constitution.

In the past few weeks we have seen the first results of the Columbia University American Legion study of Vietnam Veterans. These results, and other findings, will have a significant impact in evaluating the true cost of war to America and her veterans.

This year we published a booklet on the aging veteran . . . and offered factual and concise arguments in rebuttal to attacks on the VA Health Care System. This booklet had a very favorable impact on the Congress and the Administration, as well as State Houses and State Legislatures.

We continued our support of agencies which promote the well-being of children and youth by awarding $258,000 in grants . . . the largest annual amount ever in the history of The American Legion's Child Welfare Foundation.

We established the groundwork for The American Legion's participation in the Bicentennial celebration of the United States Constitution in 1987 by authorizing a committee to plan appropriate ceremonies and celebrations.

We helped emphasize the role of the veteran in American society and the importance of our form of government by hosting the Veterans Inaugural Ball during Inauguration festivities in Washington, D.C. last January. And, by conducting the National Salute to heroes — our Medal of Honor winners — in continuing recognition of those veterans who truly served America above and beyond the call of duty.

Ladies and gentlemen . . . those are no small accomplishements . . . now I would like to take a moment to recognize the prominent Legionnaires who have been instrumental in our success this year.

First, your National Vice Commanders. They have worked continuously this year to keep The American Legion moving at the grassroots level and they have served the organization with tireless dedication. Ladies and gentlemen, National Vice Commander Harold Collett, National Vice Commander Stu Kunde, National Vice Commander Steve Mikosky, National Vice Commander Bob Turner and National Vice Commander Ron Birk.

These are the men who really have done the work for The American Legion this year. Let's give them a warm welcome.

Your other National Officers also have worked unceasingly for the good of The American Legion. They have set the highest standards of service for themselves and their performance has been exceptional. Let's all recognize our National Chaplain Father Charles G. Rice, National Historian Roy Mahoney, National Sergeant-At-Arms Charles A. St. Clair, National Treasurer Webber LaGrange, National Judge Advocate Phil Onderdonk, and a gentleman who does so much work for The American Legion on a seven day a week basis, 52 weeks a year, 365 days a year, our National Adjutant, Bob Spanogle.

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize some very important officers who implement American Legion programs, the Department Commanders and Department Adjutants. These men and women are crucial to the workings of The American Legion, because they are the ones who marshall American Legion forces and create plans to get our programs moving. To them, a sincere thank you and right hand salute to you.

And to the nearly 2.7 million Legionnaires in our 16,000 Posts around the world who roll up their sleeves and make our programs work my most grateful and warmest appreciation. It is the grassroots volunteers who make this organization go. It is on their behalf we are here for the next few days, and as their elected Officers and Delegates we owe them every ounce of support we can muster.

Another extremely important group of people that have devoted many many years of work to The American Legion are our Past National Commanders of The American Legion. A warm welcome here and a thank you to them.

I would also like to extend a special recognition to the Legionnaires from my home Department of Maryland for their continuing support and hard work for The American Legion. They have always been there when needed, and for that I am eternally grateful.

While I was on the road this year there was a very special lady who tended to the daily needs of the Bacon family at home, and, fellow Legionnaires, I would like at this time to introduce to you my wife Helen.

Our oldest son Mel and his wife Arlene and grandson Scott. There is his sister Ashley up there. Ashley couldn't be here but Scott is representing her too. Also our youngest son Ed and his wife Carol, and my brother Earl and his wife Jane.

These are the people that looked out for things at home while I was on the road most of the year, and on Wednesday morning if we have a little spare time I am going to ask the Department Commander for 1984-85 from Maryland to sing a little song dedicated to my wife Helen.

Now, this next gentleman that I will introduce to you has devoted an awful lot of time and effort to The American Legion this year, and has traveled all over the world helping me do my job. I extend an especially warm welcome to my Aide Leroy McCauley.

Now, Leroy's wife Ellen could not be here his morning but she

will be at the reception tomorrow evening, and I want to say to Ellen and to this gentleman how much I appreciate all of your help and support this year.

Now Leroy has a wife and six daughters and a son, and I can tell you that he is king of the house when he goes home.

There is one more group dedicated to furthering the arms and ideals of The American Legion I would like to mention. They are the professionals at their work, and The American Legion is all the betteer for their efforts. I am referring to the National Staff of The American Legion both at the Indianapolis office and in the Washington, D.C., office.

The Executive Director of the Indianapolis office helping Bob Spanogle do that tremendous job is still Bill Jackson, and the Executive Director of the Washington office sitting next to him Mylio Kraja.

Thank you, gentlemen, and thank the entire staff.

With the leadership provided by the volunteer members of our Commission and Committee the Staff has kept me abreast of the fast moving issues and challenges this year which tested the very heart of The American Legion.

From the very beginning it was apparent that the Administration's determination to reduce the Federal deficit and cut government spending could have a devastating impact on America's veterans programs.

It was not a new story to The American Legion because veterans benefits have always been a target when government tries to cut costs. But, the magnitude of some of the measures being proposed was monumental.

The American Legion quickly mobilized its resources and reached into every state, into every Legislator's office, into all levels of government with swift opposition to any move which would adversely impact veterans programs.

We realized very early that the threat to the Veterans Administration would be an ongoing battle, one we must be prepared to fight continuously with every ounce of effort we can muster.

Protecting veterans' rights is the very essence of why we were founded. In this regard, we continually reminded the Administration, the Congress and the American public that the Federal budget could not and should not be balanced on the backs of veterans.

In each of these areas, you, the very foundation of our organization responded with unequalled enthusiasm.

In recent years, America has been crystal clear about one thing: Legionnaires are proud of their organization and we have pride in our country.

But, even in the midst of this resurgence of pride we have come to the realization that we must get back to basics, make sure we're not spreading ourselves too thin and continue to give this nation our best in volunteer service.

The back-to-basics spirit and the enthusiastic pride in America has manifested itself in many ways, but I'd like for you to see something which I think typifies the resurgence of the American spirit. Please watch carefully.

* * *

Lee Greenwood song "God Bless the U.S.A." plays.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Ladies and gentlemen, those grassroots Legionnaires are the ones who have brought us to several milestones this year. In Americanism, we are observing 50 years of our Boys State programs and 60 years of American Legion Baseball. And, fellow Legionnaires, believe me, we have been anything but bashful about telling America how great our programs are.

During the year we also saw a tremendous response — I have got a pause here for something I just goofed up, so, let me go back to Bobby Richardson.

* * *

A video display was presented of Bobby Richardson, former New York Yankee.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: They almost taught me how to read this year but I did skip that one.

During the year we also saw a tremendous response to our children and youth areas. There is a saying that says that "The flowers of tomorrow spring from the seeds of today," and your children and youth programs certainly sow a lot of seeds.

We have been heartened by arms reduction initiatives being discussed across the negotiation table, while at the same time we applaud America's strides to modernize her defensive capability and regain a measure of her former strength. No matter what course diplomatic talks take I can assure you we will continue to push for defensive systems which will deter any potential aggressor.

We can take encouragement from the positive steps taken to rebuild our strategic deterrents and from efforts to keep our armed forces around the world the best trained and most well equipped this nation has ever seen.

Fellow veterans, it hasn't just happened by accident, all of this has come about through your work. The success of each of our major programs is the direct result of the hard and earnest labor of each of you. Your devotion to the betterment of America's veterans, their families and their communities, is one of the most commendable achievements of this past year.

And together we have made great strides in addressing specific needs of various veterans populations, including the aging veteran, the younger veteran, those in between, and the needs of women veterans. I am grateful that we have had the opportunity to usher in another phase of American Legion service to all generations of America's veterans, because this year we brought the message home to millions of American veterans when we reached out through the medium of television that we remember their service and sacrifice.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, we remember America's veterans. We remember, and we care. If there is any one message to be taken from this Convention, it is that we care. We are interested. We are involved. We work for America, and we will do everything we can to keep our heritage of volunteer service alive and well in our nation.

When we answer the call to arms, we acted as patriots. Now in our committment to preserve America, keep her secure, free and at peace, we might be called "Flag wavers." Well, there are a lot of other flag wavers out there. And we are just beginning to reach out to them, to make them aware of just how much The American Legion means to America.

Finally, we must keep in mind those Legionnaires who during the past year, have transferred to Post Everlasting. Many of them were veterans of the first great war, and were among those who built our organization from the ground up. They gave themselves completely to the goals of The American Legion. What we are today is because of them. What they believe in and what they did. They paved the way for Legionnaires of today to carry The American Legion Torch into the future.

I would also like to remind all of the Delegates and the Legionnaires here, that the challenges of the future are clear. We will face situations, just a dramatic as those we have confronted this year, but with a positive attitude toward our basic goals. With a con-

tinued, "from-the-bottom-up" movement at the community level, and with growth and spirit and in numbers, The American Legion will remain that "beacon of hope and inspiration" on America's horizon for years to come.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: We have just had a special guest join us, a man of many accomplishments. He is a lawyer, he has served on the faculty of four universities, he has been U.S. Attorney in the state of Louisiana, served in the Louisiana House of Representatives, been a Juvenile Court Judge, and a Circuit Judge, and an Appeals Judge.

And he is now in his second term as Mayor of the City of New Orleans.

In January of this year, he assumed the duties of President of the United States Conference of Mayors.

Ladies and gentlemen, would you please join with me in a warm welcome to the Mayor of the City of New Orleans, the Honorable Ernest N. "Dutch" Morial.

### THE HONORABLE ERNEST N. "DUTCH" MORIAL

**Mayor, City of New Orleans**

Good morning. Thank you for your very warm and cordial welcome and warm introduction.

Let me say how delighted we are to be hosting this 67th Annual National Convention of this great organization, an organization which is representative of the mosaic that makes up the fabric of our great nation.

This great group of people of different ancestries, and different religious, different points of view, which have come together in this great quilt of representation for our nation; there is perhaps no other organization committed to the goals of democracy and equality that is more representative of this nation than The American Legion.

We are honored that you have chosen our city for this very significant meeting at this time.

These are very difficult times for our nation, domestically, as well as internationally.

It is a time that calls for leadership that can be provided by those of you who are Legionnaires, those of you who stand four square for the fundamental principles espoused by our Constitution, those who want to make our nation strong domestically, those who believe in the Preamble of our Constitution, that we must promote domestic tranquility, but at the same time, understand that our nation must be strong; that we must have an adequate defense, and that while we work for peace throughout the world, and we are committed to human rights, wherever there is a denial of human rights unfolding yet still, we can best espouse that if we are strong domestically and equally as strong militarily.

So as you meet over the next several days in this, the greatest city in America, after your respective hometowns, we are confident that your deliberations and the resolutions and activities that you will be engaging in over the next several days will serve as a manifesto, as well as a clarion call to promote the causes for which the Legion stands.

We welcome you again, and ask that you become frequent visitors to our city, as soon as possible, even before you come here for your 68th Annual National Convention.

Because we think there is no city in America suited nor equipped as we are to provide the southern comfort, the southern hospitality, and all the charm and friendliness that this city can provide. There is no city in America suited to host this Convention like this city.

So while this is your home away from home for the next several days, I ask that you become a part of the life and the fabric of our people, exposure to the diversity of our culture and our ancestries. Enjoy our cuisine and our history, because I hope you didn't leave home without it.

Enjoy yourselves while you are here; have a great meeting, and do come back again.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Ladies and gentlemen, our platform is also graced by another special guest this morning, a beautiful and effective young lady that represents the Second District of Louisiana in the Congress of the United States.

At this time, I would like to present to you, the Honorable Lindy Boggs.

### THE HONORABLE LINDY BOGGS

**U.S. Representative from Louisiana**

It is a joy and a pleasure to be here and to add my welcome to that of the Mayor.

I don't know of any group that I would prefer to greet in my home city of New Orleans and in my home district of Congress than The American Legion and the Auxiliary.

I serve on the Veterans Appropriations Sub-Committee in the House, so I have contact with all of you, and especially with the people who represent you in Washington, with your National Commander, and your National Officers. And I am very grateful to them for all the testimony that they are able to give before our Committee, to assure that the Veterans Committee on Appropriations meets the needs of the people who have met the needs of this nation for so many years.

I would like also to tell you that you come to the home of many wonderful Posts of your organization. We could not do without their help here.

Just yesterday we had the dedication of a new clinical addition to the Veterans Hospital, and without the help of The American Legion Posts in Louisiana, we would not have been able to pull off that wonderful $83 million dollar coup.

I have another committee which I chair that I would like to talk to you about. I am the Chairman of the Crisis Intervention Task Force of the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families. And your work in those regards has just been of immeasureable service to our Committee and to this country and to the children and the families of this country, and I thank you all with all my heart.

I liked Mr. Greenwood's song, "God Bless the U.S.A." I like the fact that the grassroots groups were included, because what I would like to say is that day in and day out, the U.S.A. is blessed by you. Thank you very much.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Now it is my honor to extend The American Legion's sincere appreciation to the fine community of Salt Lake City for hosting the National Convention where you elected me to represent you as your National Commander.

### PRESENTATION TO CITY OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

**Host City 1984 Convention**

IMMEDIATE PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KEITH KRUEL, Wisconsin: Delegates of this Convention, and distinguished guests, I am extremely proud this morning to have the opportunity to present the Medallion of The American Legion to Host City of the 1984 National Convention of this organization.

During the pre-planning for conventions, the leaders met with

the City Officials and the citizens in the area, The American Legion was anxious and they were too and so wonderful and willing to contribute to anything tht might make it a success.

Then when we came from the hinterlands of the U.S.A. and visited the city, what a fine facility they had for us. What openness the citizens of Salt Lake City had, and the great feeling that they gave and welcome that they gave to all Legionnaires and their families that visited out there.

It was a wonderful experience. And also to the Church of the Latter Day Saints who opened their facilities to The American Legion, and gave us that splendid Memorial Service.

I am also very pleased this morning that receiving that Medallion is a very good friend, a truly dedicated Legionnaire, who was certainly instrumental in putting all of this together at Salt Lake City, and Bill, I know that you will return to your hometown and convey to those leaders, to your church, our heartfelt thanks for giving us a great Convention City. Thank you very much.

MR. WILLIAM E. CHRISTOFFERSEN, PRESIDENT, THE AMERICAN LEGION 1984 NATIONAL CONVENTION CORPORATION OF UTAH: Thank you, Commander Keith. Commander Bacon, fellow Delegates and guests of this great convention. It is with deep humility and gratitude and thanks, and in whatever words we can use, to thank you for coming to Salt Lake City.

We enjoyed you, the citizens of Salt Lake City, and the Mayor especially wants to welcome you back anytime you would like to come, and that could be next year, as far as we are concerned. We are ready. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: This year, has been a distinct pleasure to have served with a man of compassion and warmth. He is extremely sensitive to the spiritual needs of his fellow man, and he has contributed greatly to the goals of The American Legion.

A veteran of World War II, and a Legionnaire for 39 years, he has been a guiding influence and an inspiration as your National Chaplain.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with a great deal of pride and pleasure that I present to you, the Reverend Charles G. Rice of New York, and it is with even greater pleasure that I can present to him this certificate of appreciation for his caring service.

Le me read the inscription if I might:

"Certificate of Appreciation presented to Reverend Charles G. Rice, Jr. appointed and served as National Chaplain of The American Legion 1984-85 given in recognition of faithful and honorable service to The American Legion."

This is signed by Robert W. Spanogle, National Adjutant, and Clarence M. Bacon, National Commander.

You have our thanks and appreciation for a job well done.

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN REV. CHARLES G. RICE, JR., NEW YORK: A special thanks of course to our Commander Clarence. And actually, this honor shouldn't be coming to me. It should be coming to all of you.

I have never enjoyed The American Legion in my 41 years as Legionnaire more than I have this year. You have given me great honor.

Our Lord said it very well, and I say the same thing to you — I love you! I love you! I love you! Let's all have a ball together.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: At this time, the Chair would recognize Mr. Herman G. Harrington of New York City, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs for the purpose of making a report.

## REPORT OF NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS

### Section I — Credentials

**Herman G. Harrington, (New York) Chairman**

Forty-nine members of the Credentials and Other Internal Matters Sections of the Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs met at 9:00 a.m., August 25, 1985, in the Regency Ballroom, Section G, Third Floor, Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Herman G. Harrington of New York was elected Chairman and Douglas Johnson of Maryland was elected Secretary.

Motion was made, seconded and duly carried to approve the membership report of the National Adjutant as of 30 days prior to the National Convention and to base delegate strength to the 67th National Convention upon the provisions of Section 3, Article V, of the National Constitution: five delegates for each Department plus one additional delegate for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer thirty days prior to the opening of the Convention (July 29, 1985), and one alternate for each delegate. In addition, members of the National Executive Committe, including the National Commander who exercises his vote only in his capacity as Chairman of the National Convention, and five National Vice Commanders are delegates to the National Convention with vote exercised in their Departments.

Representation for the Departments will be as follows:

Mr. Commander, as a duly elected Delegate from the Department of New York, I move the adoption of this report.

. . . The motion was duly seconded by Mr. Carroll Fields, Louisiana, and carried unanimously and the report was adopted.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: At this time the Chair recognizes Mr. Gary W. Sammons, Michigan, Chairman of the National Convention on Legislation and Rules for the purpose of a report.

## REPORT OF THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION AND RULES

**Gary W. Sammons, (Michigan) Chairman**

Your Committee on Legislation and Rules met at 10:00 a.m. on August 25, 1985 in Section "D" of the Burgundy Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. There were 43 Delegates in attendance.

Following distribution of official credentials to the Delegates in attendance, the Committee was called to order by Philip Riggin (MD) who had been appointed by the National Adjutant to serve as temporary chairman. After the Committee had been duly formed and guidelines of the Committee's responsibility had been read, the election of permanent officers was held. Gary W. Sammons (MI) was elected Chairman and Charles Pesso (NY) was elected Secretary. The Committee then adopted the Standing Rules of the Convention without amendment or adjustments.

Apart from the actions taken by the Committee on Legislation and Rules, we wish to report on several matters of critical importance to The American Legion that concern ongoing activities in the United States Congress. As you probably know, the size of the national debt now stands at $2 trillion, and annual federal deficits are now exceeding $200 billion. These conditions have exerted extreme pressure on Congress to prevent the national debt and federal deficits from ruining the nation's economy. As you know, the President has made it very clear that the only acceptable

solution to these problems is to cut deeply into domestic programs without raising taxes.

In response to pressures to reduce spending over the past several years, Congress has cut a variety of programs to include several veterans programs. However, these cuts have been made without significantly changing eligibility for basic veterans entitlements. With a limited number of available options to achieve more budget savings, the current session of Congress is faced with some very difficult choices.

For example, health care spending in VA has been slated for reduction through the imposition of proposals designed to restrict current policies regarding admission to VA hospitals. Basic changes in eligibility have been proposed, and among them is one that would impose a strict means test on veterans in order to establish eligibility for VA health care. Another would require VA to collect the costs of medical services from health insurance policies held by veterans.

The American Legion has strongly opposed further cuts, especially when considering the dramatically increased demand for VA medical care which is expected in the near future. At a time when the nation must begin to prepare for the health care needs of an aging population, plans must be made for an even greater health care capacity.

Moreover, it is encumbent upon all of us to convince Congress that overall VA spending is not a principal cause of $200 billion deficits. A review of recent trends clearly shows that the total VA budget rose by more than 160 percent. Over that same period, the Medicare budget was increased at a rate three times greater than VA health care.

From a larger perspective, if the total federal budget had been restrained similar to VA's over the past ten years, it is likely that a surplus of more than $150 billion would have been realized in 1984.

These are difficult times in Washington for a variety of programs in which The American Legion is interested. However, with your assistance back home, we believe that proposed budgetary cuts can be minimized when Congress returns next month from its summer recess.

Thank you Mr. Commander, as a Delegate to this Convention, I move for the adoption of this report.

. . . The motion was duly seconded by Mr. Robert W. Neal, Maryland, and adopted unanimously.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: At this time, the Chair will recognize again, Mr. Herman Harrington of New York, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs.

## REPORT OF CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS

### Section II — Other Internal Affairs

**Herman G. Harrington, (New York) Chairman**

Thirty-four resolutions were received and reviewed by the Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section II — Other Internal Matters. Action taken on these resolutions was as follows: One resolution was approved; one resolution was approved as amended; seven resolutions were approved as consolidated and amended; five resolutions were received and recorded; 15 resolutions were referred to further study and five resolutions were rejected.

#### Approved

**Res. 420** (Convention Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs) — **Appreciation to Host Department City**

WHEREAS, The 67th National Convention has been held in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985; and

WHEREAS, There has been a warm feeling of cooperation and friendship evidenced by the Legionnaires of Louisiana, the officers of the Convention Corporation and the Department, and by the officials and the people of New Orleans, Louisiana, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, That we express our deep appreciation to the Department of Louisiana, the city officials of New Orleans, to the 1985 National Convention Corporation of Louisiana, to local citizens and Legionnaires, and especially to Merrick W. Swords, Jr., President of the Corporation; John A. Guirovich, Jr., Vice President and Convention Chairman; William M. Detweiler, Secretary and General Counsel; Gus Kraus, Treasurer; and Roy Kirkham, Past Department Commander. Around this nucleus has been built the moving force providing for every necessity for a successful, enjoyable Convention.

#### Approved as Amended

**Res. 283** (MN) — **National PR Television Message (Supporting DMS)**

WHEREAS, It is the conviction of the current officers of the Minnesota American Legion that the best membership program is one of educating the public about The American Legion programs and activities; and

WHEREAS, The National Public Relations Commission of The American Legion placed television spot advertisements regarding The American Legion on three (3) television channels in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area during the period of February 15 through March 3, 1985; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, That the National Public Relations Commission be congratulated on the quality and content of this television message; and, be it futher

RESOLVED, That the Public Relations Commission be encouraged to continue membership campaign programs of this nature on a national basis.

#### Approved as Consolidated and Amended

**Res. 136** (IL) and **Res. 104** (NC) — **Urging American Legion Departments and Posts to Support the Restoration of the Statue of Liberty** (using text of Res. 126)

WHEREAS, Our forefathers brought forth upon this Continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is composed of patriotic American veterans who support that proposition and the proposition "to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation" as stated in our Preamble, and

WHEREAS, Those great symbols of our American Heritage, the Statute of Liberty and Ellis Island have fallen into such a serious state of decay and deterioration in the past 98 years, and

WHEREAS, The Statue of Liberty Ellis Island Foundation, Inc., is now engaged in a very meaningful restoration project and will have to raise two hundred and thirty million dollars before July 4, 1986, "Lady Liberty's" 100th birthday; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, That The American Legion Posts be encouraged to support this effort with assistance to carry this project to a successful completion.

**Res. 195** (MD), **Res. 147** (ME), **Res. 31** (NH), **Res. 247** (PA), **Res. 310** (NY) — **Korean War Memorial** (using the numbered Res. 195)

WHEREAS, Our nation's capital has various memorials commemorating armed conflicts in which the United States has been engaged, but no memorial to the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, There were 54,000 members of the United States Armed Forces killed and over 100,000 wounded in the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Thirty years have elapsed since the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, The erection of this memorial should be funded through donations from the private sector at no cost to the government of the United States or the District of Columbia or The American Legion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, That in tribute to those dead and still living that served in United States during the Korean War, a monument be erected on public grounds in the District of Columbia, or its environs, in honor and commemoration of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Korean War.

**Received and Recorded**

**Res. 279** (MO) — **Candiate for National Vice Commander of The American Legion**

**Res. 182** (IN) — **Reinstatement of the Cap Patch for Graduates of The American Legion Extension Institute**

**Res. 125** (IL) — **Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Card**

**Res. 284** (MN) — **Continue Postal Subsidy for Non-Profit Organizations**

**Res. 382** (TX) — **Oppose Any Increase in Postal Rates for Non-Profit Organizations**

**Referred**

**To Internal Affairs Commission**

**Res. 379** (IA) — **Amending of the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion**

**Res. 335** (WI) — **Vietnam Women's Memorial Project**

**Res. 246** (PA) — **Support Legislation Asking the Federal Government to Provide Land for a Monument Honoring the Female Veteran**

**Res. 369** (IA) — **Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Recognition**

**Res. 124** (IL) — **Printing of Department and National Publications**

**Res. 336** (WI) — **Seeking Legislation to Change the Rules of the United States Postal Service so as to Allow Non-Profit Organizations the use of Permit Mail for Distribution of Publications Containing Advertisements of Bingo/Raffle Events**

**Res. 271** (WA) — **Urge Congress of the United States to Dismiss any Action that Claims Redress or Reparations to Civilians who were Relocated from Strategic Military Zones During World War II**

**Res. 381** (TX) — **American Legion National History Contest**

**Res. 383** (TX) — **Convert the Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Program to a Perpetual Membership Program**

**To Emblem Committee**

**Res. 245** (PA) — **Legionnaire-of-the-Year Plaque Proposed**

**To Convention Commission**

**Res. 32** (NH) — **Judging of Uniformed Groups at American Legion National Conventions**

**Res. 181** (IN) — **Competing Units at National Conventions**

**To The American Legion Magazine Commission**

**Res. 309** (NY) — **American Legion Magazine**

**Res. 407** (Philippines) — **American Legion Magazine**

**To Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission**

**Res. 400** (MI) — **American Legion Poppy Program**

**Rejected**

**Res. 196** (MD) — **Vietnam War Draft Resistors' Memorial — Rejected because no information received in regard to a movement of this nature.**

**Res. 278** (Canada) — **DMS Program — Rejected — Impossible to implement since that Department does not have a Department Headquarters Post and is not in the DMS Program.**

**Res. 248** (PA) — **Sponsor and Support Legislation to Modify the Hatch Act in Order for Veterans Working for Civil Service to Run for Local Office in the Communities They Live In - Rejected - Impossible to implement as it would segregate one element of workers from another and legally may be in conflict with equal rights regulations.**

**Res. 285** (MN) — **Acid Rain - Rejected - Lack of supporting documentation in regard to scientific studies.**

**Res. 152** (CO) — **National Veterans Lottery Program - Rejected - Unclear the meaning to veterans and impossible to implement.**

At this time, Mr. Commander, as a duly elected Delegate from the Department of New York to this Convention, I move the adoption of the report.

. . . The motion was seconded by Mr. Richard Pedro, New York, and carried unanimously and the report was adopted.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON. We look on The American Legion — the American Legion Auxiliary, and our youth groups as a big family. One of the genuine pleasures of serving as National Commander in The American Legion and Auxiliary families is being able to work very closely with the Auxiliary's National President.

This past year she has graced us with charm as well as purpose. She has given every ounce of her effort to further the goals of both our organizations and she has given us support by developing a side by side working relationship.

Ladies and gentlemen, from the Department of Florida, accompanied by the National Secretary of The American Legion Auxiliary, Miriam Junge, please stand and welcome a lady I greatly admire, and whose friendship I treasure, the National President of The American Legion Auxiliary, Helen Gardner.

**MRS. HELEN GARDNER (FLORIDA)**
**NATIONAL PRESIDENT**
**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

Thank you Mr. Commander Bacon. I certainly deem it a privilege of the highest order to be allowed to be present here today, and bring greetings on behalf of the National American Legion Auxiliary.

It certainly gives me an opportunity to tell each and every one of you here what an inspiration your National Commander has been to this President, as over our 1,000,000 members participated and contributed to the accomplishments of the goals of The American Legion.

May I wish for each one of you, a happy and productive Convention here. I certainly would be remiss if I didn't congratulate and commend your Commander on the outstanding record of achievement that he has scored this year, along with your help.

We are so proud of the membership growth of The American Legion, that our sides are busting, too.

So we wish you well. We wish you a wonderful Convention. We wish you continued success, and I know without a doubt, that you are going to continue to be, the dynamic force in determining the destiny of this great nation.

Thank you so much for allowing me the privilege of interrupting your proceedings.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: At this time the Chair recognizes Mr. Douglas W. Henley of Maryland, Chairman of the National Convention Committee for Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section III, Membership, for the purpose of making a report.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**Section III — Membership**

**Douglas W. Henley (Maryland) Chairman**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests and Delegates to the 67th Annual National Convention of The American Legion. Fifty-one (51) members of your Committee on Credentials and Internal Affairs, Section III, Membership, met at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 25, 1985 at the appointed location. The Temporary Chairman called the meeting to order and proceeded to the first order of business of electing a Permanent Chairman and Permanent Secretary.

Douglas W. Henley (MD) was unanimously elected Permanent Chairman. Gary L. Walling (IL) was elected Permanent Secretary. Your Committee agreed upon the following report, and submits it for your consideration as Delegates to this Convention.

The roll call indicated that a quorum was present. Your Committee has no action to report on Resolutions, as none were assigned to this Committee for consideration.

Various progress and status reports were presented concerning membership recruitment and renewal programs.

It was reported that 1985 membership as of Friday, August 23, 1985 was 2,635,227 representing an increase of 107,029 members compared to the same date a year ago.

It should be noted with pride that 1985 membership has reversed a four consecutive year negative trend of membership losses, and more significantly, 1985 membership represents the largest single year increase since 1946.

It is projected that 1985 Final Membership, as of December 31, 1985, will reach 2,645,000 representing an increase of 108,937 (or 4.3%) over 1984.

On behalf of The American Legion, your Committee extends sincere appreciation to you the Delegates to this Convention, and to the many thousands of active Legionnaires you represent back in your home Departments and Posts, for your involvement in the success of this 1985 membership campaign.

We also encourage you to intensify that involvement as we enter the 1986 membership campaign with the ambitious goal of again exceeding three million members.

Following presentation of other status reports Clayton Mann (TX) made a motion that the Committee stand adjourned subject to recall by the Chairman. Motion was properly seconded and carried.

Mr. Commander, as the duly elected Delegate to this Convention from the Department of Maryland, I move the adoption of this report.

. . . The motion was duly seconded by Mr. Earl Nutall, Maryland, and carried unanimously, and the Committee report was adopted.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: At this time, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to call on some very able Legionnaires, some people that have assisted me greatly this year. And I am talking about none other than my and your National Vice Commanders of The American Legion.

They are going to assist me in giving out the membership awards for this year.

First, I would like to ask Ron Birk of Kansas if he would please come to the podium.

**MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION OF LEGIONNAIRES**

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER RONALD D. BIRK: Thank you, Commander Bacon, Legionnaires and guests, ladies and gentlemen, the time has come to honor those Legionnaires who have achieved record numbers in their membership activities this year.

It is through efforts such as those for which these Legionnaires are being recognized, that The American Legion remains strong. Our membership is the dynamic force that makes this the greatest veterans organization in America, because our membership is our strength.

Each winner this year will receive a special award plaque.

**Individual Membership Worker Awards**

The first category is Individual Membership Workers Awards for recruiting at least ten new veterans by Veterans Day, November 11, 1984 for the 1985 membership year. More than one thousand individual recruiters were certified for this award and among them, five were selected in a special drawing to receive their awards at the National Convention.

Representing Individual Membership Workers are: John Purdy, Post 7, Department of Florida.

Kenneth J. Furnish, Post 57, Department of Florida.

Howard Smith, Post 33, Department of Illinois.

Clarence A. Dudley, Jr., Post 148, Department of Florida.

Michael Millican, Post 311, Department of California.

**National Century Club Award**

The second category is the National Century Club Award for recruiting at least 100 members, reinstatements or renewals by The American Legion birthday, March 15-17, 1985, for the 1985 membership year. 984 individuals were inducted into the National Century Club, and among them five were selected in a special drawing to receive their awards at the National Convention. Representing the National Century Club are:

Perry W. Bradley, Post 40, Department of Georgia.

Jay A. Weaver, Post 421, Department of Pennsylvania.

Lionel A. Morais, Post 303, Department of Massachusetts.

Edgar L. Turner, Post 52, Department of Alabama.

John A. Surman, Post 369, Department of Indiana.

**Post Commander Achievement Awards**

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER ROBERT S. TURNER, GEORGIA: Next we have the Post Commander Achievement Awards for leading their Posts to a 1985 membership increase by November 11, 1984, by exceeding the Post's previous year's final membership. 1,040 Post Commanders were certified for this award, and among

them five were selected in a special drawing to receive their awards at the National Convention. Representing Post Commanders with over 100 percent membership are:

Douglas S. Smith, Post 1604, Department of New York.
Don G. Gunderson, Post 124, Department of Idaho.
Louis Alexander, Post 453, Department of New Jersey.
Henry R. Stole, Post 23, Department of Texas.
Richard G. Denbow, Post 127, Department of Iowa.

**District Commander Competition Winners**

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER STEPHEN J. MIKOWSKY, PENNSYLVANIA: Top District Commander Competition Winners are District Commanders who compete in five categories, based on size of the District. Their first place awards are for having the greatest percentage of 1985 membership increase over the final 1984 District Membership as of May 1, 1985.

The 1985 winners of the top District Commander Competition are:

Category I, Terry Shaw, District 1, Department of Wyoming, 116.74%.

Category II, George Wragg, District 17, Department of Florida, 108.28%.

Category III, Harry Gieseler, Western District, Department of Alaska, 107.65%.

Category IV, B. Frank Fuller, District 13, Department of Florida, 104.33%.

Category V, Ted Dzien, District 16, Department of Florida, 104.73%.

**Department Membership Chairmen Team Plaque Winners**

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER STUART R. KUNDE: Department Membership Chairmen Team Plaque Winners have accumulated at least 200 points on various target dates during the 1984 membership year, thus leading their Departments to success in membership. 21 Department Membership Chairmen qualified for the Team Plaque and among them five were selected in a special drawing to receive their awards at the National Convention.

Representing "Team Plaque" Department Membership Chairmen are:

F.W. "Skete" Hoaglin, Department of Missouri.
William Barbknecht, Department of Minnesota.
Charles W. Ferris, Department of Colorado.
Joseph Lecouffe, Department of Vermont.
Moritz McShannon, Department of Oregon.

**Department Commanders Prizes, Five Categories**

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER HAROLD E. COLLETT, IDAHO: Department Commanders also compete in five categories based on the size of the Department. Their first place awards are for having the greatest percentage of 1985 membership increase over the final 1984 Department membership as of July 29, 1985. The 1985 winners of the top Department Commander competition are:

Richard H. Mibach, Department of California, 115.29%.
Earl C. Nuttall, Department of Maryland, 107.00%.
Howard Jessen, Department of Washington, 109.62%.
Stan C. Stueve, Department of Oregon, 112.65%.
Larry Little, Department of Nevada, 119.08%.

In addition to the plaques that have been presented to these honorees, their award further consisted of an expense paid trip to this Convention and a reserved ticket to the National Commander's Banquet for Distinguished Guests.

**Six Department Commanders Truly High Achievement**

Six Department Commanders now will be recognized for truly high achievement in membership. They led their respective Departments to a new all-time-high membership for 1985 by July 29, 1985 and will be awarded a specially cast 10 karat gold ring signifying this great accomplishment.

Receiving the all-time-high Department Commander rings are:

Rheuben M. Hair, Sr., Department of Florida.
Mrs. Kay Compton, Department of Arizona.
Earl C. Nuttall, Department of Maryland.
Brad Jorgens, Department of Minnesota.
E. P. Oliver, Department of Alaska.
Thomas D. Coutts, Department of Vermont.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Let's give them a warm round of applause for their fine accomplishments.

I would also like to thank the National Vice Commanders for helping me out on this program this morning. It is always a pleasure to recognize Legionnaires who have excelled in such a noteworthy fashion.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: At this time the Chair would like to recognize Mr. Charles Green, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Americanism for the purpose of making a report.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AMERICANISM**

**Charles Green, (Ohio) Chairman**

This is the report on the Americanism Committee, to the 67th Annual National Convention of The American Legion, New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985.

Fifty members of your Convention Committee on Americanism met at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 25, 1985 to discuss matters of Americanism presented as resolutions.

This Committee organized by electing Charles Green (OH), Chairman; Albert Moeller (NJ), Vice Chairman and Daniel J. O'Connor (NY), Secretary.

This Committee then recessed to Sub-committees with William Plowden, Jr. (SC) serving as Chairman of the Baseball, Recreation and Youth Activities Sub-committee; Joseph Skilenar (IA) serving as Chairman of the Immigration and Naturalization Subcommittee; and Marvin Nold (CO) serving as Chairman of the Counter-Subversive Activities Sub-committee.

The Sub-committees and subsequently the full Committee assembled, discussed at length a total of 21 resolutions that dealt with matters that are within the realm of responsibility of the Americanism Convention Committee. The resolutions considered continue to reflect a desire by the many Departments of The American Legion to maintain a strong general Americanism program with an eye to bolstering the programs of youth activities.

Two (2) resolutions were approved; three (3) resolutions were approved as amended; two (2) resolutions were approved as consolidated; eight (8) resolutions were received and recorded; five (5) resolutions were referred to the Standing Commission on Americanism; and one (1) resolution was rejected.

**Approved**

**Res. 421** (Americanism Convention Committee) — **Re-Establish House Committee on Internal Security**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has always recognized the importance of our Congressional Investigating Committees exposing the truth about subversive activities which contribute to

the harm and destruction of our United States Constitutional Government of freedom; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985 that all U.S. Congressmen are urged to support and co-sponsor House legislation to restore the U.S. House Internal Security Committee.

**Res. 121** (IL) — **50th Anniversary of the National High School Oratorical Contest in 1987**

WHEREAS, 1987 is the year of the Bicentennial of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, 1987 is also the year when The American Legion will recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Oratorical Contest; and

WHEREAS, The Oratorical Contest is an educational program designed to develop an understanding of the Constitution among the youth of our nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that a program be developed in conjunction with the commemoration of the Bicentennial of the Constitution of the United States of America, which would enhance the Oratorical Contest, and be in keeping with the commemorative activities.

**Approved as amended**

**Res. 326** (CA) — **Urging that the Flag Code be Amended to include Fathers Day in the List of Holidays that the Flag should be Displayed**

WHEREAS, Fathers Day is not listed in the current Flag Code, Title 36, U.S. Code, Chapter 10, sub-section 174, subparagraph D; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that the Flag Code be amended to include Fathers Day in the list of holidays that the flag should be displayed.

**Res. 161** (NM) — **Flag Display**

WHEREAS, America in 1986 will be celebrating the 100th Birthday of the "Statue of Liberty" and the 210th Birthday of our independence; and

WHEREAS, A 21-day salute takes place annually beginning on Flag Day - June 14 and concluding Independence Day - July 4th, with many Americans throughout this land displaying the U.S. Flag at their homes each and every day during this period; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion encourage a special "U.S. Flag Display" by all Americans annually to commence on June 14 and continue through July 4th; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National and Department Organizations, through their Americanism Committees, provide the leadership necessary to plan a program of this scope; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all American Legion members be encouraged to join this 21-day salute to America and the Statue of Liberty, by displaying the U.S. Flag at their home and to provide the leadership in each local neighborhood getting as many other citizens as possible to join us; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That during this 21-day salute, all Post Commanders be encouraged to schedule other flag-oriented programs, i.e., special Flag presentations to outside organizations, special schools of instructions on Flag Etiquette, Retirement of Post Flags and Flag Disposal Ceremonies.

**Res. 119** (IL) — **Oppose Commending Anti-Vietnam Activities**

WHEREAS, A proposal to commend anti-Vietnam activists has been advanced into the California legislature; and

WHEREAS, During the Vietnam Conflict, anti-Vietnam activists were a significant source of divisiveness in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Because of the Divisiveness which existed during the Vietnam Conflict, Vietnam Veterans are only now receiving the recognition they deserve and are only now beginning to feel welcome and appreciated in the country they served so dutifully; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of any action to commend anti-Vietnam activists can only be to continue and further such divisiveness when the internal wounds caused by Vietnam are only now healing; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we denounce and oppose any action by any body within the United States of America which would, in any way, expressly or impliedly commend anti-Vietnam activists.

**Approved as consolidated**

**Res. 106** (NC) — **World Communism** and **Res. 107** (NC) — **World Communism** using the text of Res. 106:

WHEREAS, All American people desire peace both for our country and for all the world; and

WHEREAS, Communist doctrine asserts that true peace can exist only when all the world is communistic; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union seeks to install communism throughout the world and under its domination, having already achieved subjugation of over 30 independent peoples who have extensive traditions, histories, literature, and other cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, Every country which has become communistic has removed 10 to 60% of its former inhabitants by programmed death or export; and

WHEREAS, Cuba is already fully entrenched as a communist military power while Nicaragua is closely following, already having installed much of the communist apparatus; and

WHEREAS, There are persons and associations in most of our towns and the nation who are advocates or apologists for one or more of these communist countries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that the advocates and apologists of communistic countries and causes are dangerous to the future of our United States and to many of its individuals and therefore should be exposed as subversive to the United States.

**Received and Recorded**

**Res. 122** (IL) — **Illegal Aliens**

**Res. 120** (IL) — **Illegal Aliens**

**Res. 180** (IN) — **Support Legislation to Make English the Official Language of the United States**

**Res. 351** (VA) — **Support Legislation to Make English the Official Language of the United States**

**Res. 406** (Phil) — **Grant Citizenship to Filipino World War II Veterans who Applied for Naturalization After December 31, 1946**

**Res. 405** (Phil) — **Amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act**

**Res. 151** (CO) — **Veterans Day Observance**

**Res. 96** (DC) — **Memorial Day**

**Referred to Standing Commission on Americanism**

**Res. 43** (MA) — **American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest**

**Res. 399** (MI) — **Urging Expansion of the Educational**

**Exchange Programs Between the United States, Mexico and Central America**

**Res. 270** (WA) — **Seeking Clarification as to the Proper Display of the American Flag Patch on the Sleeve**

**Res. 325** (CA) — **Flag Display**

**Res. 155** (IL) — **Cease Buying and Selling Certain Books and Movies Within Governmental Establishments**

**Rejected**

**Res. 16** (SD) — **American Legion Baseball Commemorative Postage Stamp**

Reason: The sense of the Committee was in agreement with the intent of the resolution. Time necessary to comply with the intent of the resolution renders it impossible to implement.

Mr. Chairman, this Committee report was received and signed by Charles R. Green, Chairman, Mr. Commander, I move the adoption of this report.

. . . The motion was duly seconded by Delegate Pat Hone, Ohio, and carried unanimously, and the report was adopted.

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**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: One of our most prominent Americanism programs is American Legion Baseball. This coming weekend in Kokomo, Indiana, we will sponsor the 60th American Legion Baseball World Series.

With us today, is a representative of professional baseball, a sport which has benefited from six decades of American Legion Baseball players.

Dr. Robert Brown, before earning his medical degree, also was a professional baseball player. To be more specific, Dr. Brown played pro ball with the New York Yankees while he was attending Medical School here in New Orleans at Tulane University in the 1940s.

He played in four World Series before retiring from professional baseball in 1954. His list of accomplishments goes on and on and on. So just allow me to introduce a former third baseman from the New York Yankees and currently President of the American League of Professional Baseball Clubs, Dr. Robert W. "Bobby" Brown.

**DR. ROBERT W. "BOBBY" BROWN**

**President, The American League of Professional Baseball Clubs**

Thank you Commander Bacon. I bring you greetings this morning from Major League Baseball, and I also bring you greetings from myself.

I am a graduate of The American Legion Baseball Program.

In 1936 I joined my first organized team which was the Broadway American Legion Post in Seattle, Washington. I was 11 years old. I was the only person on the team that wasn't in high school, and when I brought that uniform home and showed it to my father, he couldn't believe it. He said, "I've got to go out there tomorrow and make sure you don't get killed."

I also played for the Maplewood American Legion Post in Maplewood, New Jersey, for the Galilee American Legion Post in San Francisco, California.

Some of my greatest moments of growing up took place on the baseball teams in The American Legion program.

This is a program that has been ongoing since 1925, and currently has over 70 thousand players in its programs. It has teams in every state and in the territory of Puerto Rico.

Your annual budget for this is $675,000, and the Major Leagues contribute to the program $105,000. We are solidly behind it. We hope that as time goes on, we can make this program bigger and better.

We want to do so, because we realize:

One, that that program is a fertile ground for our future major league players. Over 50 percent of the major league players have come out the Legion ranks. But most importantly, we think this is an important program for the youth of America, because like you, Major League Baseball is interested in making good citizens.

We commend The American Legion for its interest in the youth of our country. We commend The American Legion for their unceasing efforts to keep this country morally sound and physically strong.

I am delighted to be with you here this morning, and I hope you have a great Convention. Thank you.

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**AMERICAN LEGION YOUTH CHAMPIONS**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: It is particularly appropriate at this point in the agenda to introduce the living proof of the value of our Americanism program. Sometimes they are referred to as our youthful VIPs, and rightly so, because they represent the finest of this nation's youth.

We have a great deal to be proud of in our young Americans, and one of the reasons they are developing into this country's next generation of leaders is because of the opportunities provided by American Legion and Auxiliary program.

These young adults with us today have chosen to be the top in their selected areas, and they have truly earned the title of Youth Champions.

**1985 BOY SCOUT OF THE YEAR**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: From the first moments of our first National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota 67 years ago, The American Legion recognized a major contribution to American youth in a program called "Boy Scouts."

A resolution was passed at that Convention which encouraged American Legion Posts to support scout activities. And we've been doing it ever since.

Today, we have with us a young man who has achieved scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout, and has worked for God and Country also have earned him recognition as 1985 American Legion Scout of the Year.

Ladies and gentlemen, sponsored by Gillaspey-Moodie Post 474 of Donnellson, Iowa, Peter John Kaboli.

**PETER JOHN KABOLI**

**Donnellson, Iowa**
**1985 Scout of the Year**

National Commander Mr. Clarence Bacon, Legionnaires and Auxiliary, Distinguished Guests and friends, it has been my sincere pleasure and honor to be chosen this year as The American Legion Boy Scout of the Year by such a fine outstanding organization.

Your generosity and gracious hospitality has been wonderful, and has made my stay here in New Orleans at your Convention most memorable.

I would like to thank everyone, beginning with Gillaspey-Moodie Post 475 in my hometown of Donnellson, Iowa which sponsored my Scout Troop and nominated me for this award, and all of the Committees and people who worked and received the applications since it left my hands, and ended up in Indianapolis, all of the great Legionnaires from my great home state of Iowa,

Americanism Chairman Dale Renaud and National Commander Clarence Bacon.

I am proud to have been chosen to represent the Scouts all over the country as The American Legion Boy Scout of the Year. But most importantly, I want to thank all of you, and the rest of the nearly 3 million Legionnaires which make up this fine organization.

You are the ones which generously give of your time to support the Boy Scouts and put on Boys State and Boys Nation and sponsor the Oratorical Contest and American Legion Baseball, and other worthwhile projects. All of this though, is only possible because you, and other Legionnaires and Americans fought to give their lives so that this great nation could be free today.

It is because of you and others that we live in the greatest country of the world, the United States of America. And for that, I thank you even more.

Thank you very much.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Whether we do it by letter, telephone, telegraph, or computer, we all communicate with each other in one way or another. Our next youth champion earned her title with the power of the spoken word and a knowledge of the U.S. Constitution.

She is from Cedarburg, Wisconsin, and was sponsored by Peter Wollner Post 288 during her quest for excellence.

Ladies and gentlemen, the 1985 winner of the American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest, Gwen Connolly.

**GWEN CONNOLLY**

**National High School Oratorical Contest Winner**

Hi, Wisconsin. Good morning Legionnaires and distinguished guests. There is no way that I could express to you in these one or two minutes my sincere thanks and gratitude for all of the possibilities that you have made for me. The American Legion contest has been one of the most significant experiences in my life. It has changed my perspective of the Constitution and made me more aware of how unique our system of democracy really is.

It has been an opportunity for me to compete and to achieve. You, The American Legion, have awarded me over $17 thousand dollars in scholarships which will go a long way in making my educational dream come true, and then you have awarded the same opportunity to over 30 thousand other students across the nation. For this I compliment each and every one of you for having a terrific organization.

I would like to say to each and every one of you quite simply from the bottom of my heart for everything, thank you.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Our next youth champion has risen to the top elected office in our Boys Nation program. This year he and the other Delegates from the various Boys State programs around the country marked a significant event, 50 years of teaching our form of government through experience and practical application.

Ladies and gentlemen, from Yazoo City, Mississippi, 1985 Boys Nation President Marcus R. Dilworth, Jr.

**MARCUS R. DILWORTH, JR.**

**1985 Boys Nation President**

To the National Commander Mr. Clarence Bacon and other distinguished members, guests and friends, and my fellow Youth Champions of this distinguished organization.

I must say that the Boys Nation program that I was given the opportunity to participate in under the direction of Mr. Marty Justis was one of the most excellent programs that I have been involved in, including the Boys State program which I attended earlier this summer under the direction of Mr. Marty Millstead.

A program such as this can be summed up with these words "only in America," for only under the American system are a group of young men and women allowed to assemble and conduct an indepth study of their government.

I am happy of this fact of honor and opportunity and will gladly say that I was a Delegate to The American Legion's Boys Nation and Boys State in 1985, the year of our Lord Jesus Christ, where I was given an opportunity to contribute to this fine program and our American heritage.

I would now like to leave you with these words that I was given sometime ago. I shared them with some of you earlier in the Convention and I would like to share them with the whole delegation. "No one knows - but this much you can be sure of: Today's moments are becoming - moments. As you reflect on what you are now and what you want to be God's enfolding love is moving through your efforts and your actions, turning sparks into flames that won't be bright until tomorrow, turning feathers into wings that won't soar for many days to come. But when you have faith that today's becoming - moments are being molded by your hopes and God's plans, you can wait to see what lies ahead."

And so, to the men and women of The American Legion, I would like to thank you for giving us the becoming - moments that will live in the minds and hearts of young men and women as golden memories. As President of Boys Nation representing the 500 thousand young men of Boys State and Boys Nation I salute you with the deepest of gratitude on your 67th Annual National Convention and wish you many, many more. Thank you very much.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: This next young man was honored just a few weeks ago by having a plaque with his picture placed in the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York.

He was the short stop on last year's championship American Legion Baseball World Series winning team from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico.

Please join with me in welcoming the 1984 American Legion Baseball Player of the Year, Jorge Robles.

**JORGE ROBLES**

**1984 American Legion Baseball Player of the Year**

Commander Bacon, other distinguished members, guests and friends attending this great Convention of The American Legion. I wish to thank you for the hospitality you have shown me. I have enjoyed myself very much, and I would like to say that I feel very proud to be here representing thousands of American Legion baseball players from all over the country. Thanks. God bless you all.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you very much. Isn't that a great group of young people representing our country.

It may interest you to know that the young baseball player has been drafted by two major league teams and has turned both of them down in order that he can continue his education at the present time.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: This is the 47th consecutive year that Hearst Newspaper Enterprises has joined The American Legion in honoring the best Americanism program among our Departments.

The winning Department is selected by the National Americanism Commission on the basis of total resources, manpower as well as financial, devoted to Americanism activities during the Legion year.

The William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy is an impressive award named in honor of one of American journalism's most prominent and influential figures. The winner, ladies and gentlemen of the 1985 Hearst Americanism Award is the Department of Maryland, will representatives of the winning Department come to the platform.

May we have Earl Nuttall, Department Commander for 1984-85.

With us today to make the presentation on behalf of the Hearst Corporation is its Group Publisher for the Texas Division, a position he holds in addition to that of Publisher of the Beaumont, Texas, Register. Prior to that he published the Midland, Michigan, Daily News.

In addition to holding some professional offices he also is on the Journalism Advisory Committee of Texas Tech University.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. George B. Irish who will award the trophy.

## PRESENTATION HEARST AMERICANISM TROPHY

### George B. Irish

National Commander Bacon and Delegates to the Convention, it is my pleasure to be here representing the Hearst Corporation. As National Commander Bacon indicated this is the 47th year that the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy has been awarded. Mr. Hearst was first and foremost for America first. Indeed from the beginning of his distinguished career over a hundred years ago he was a firm believer in a strong America. He, perhaps as much or more than any other person in his time, worked to raise the consciousness of the American people that this nation should become a strong world power. In the decades that followed he continued his advocacy for a strong America, of patriotic and demonstrated Americanism and to frequently stress their importance which is essential to the continuation of those liberties which we cherish.

The American Legion and Legionnaires both in uniform and years following out of uniform have done much more to preserve our freedoms than any other organization. In a period when the display of patriotism seems to have diminished this nation needs more than ever the Americanism program of The American Legion.

It is obvious that this year's winner, the Department of Maryland, is working to make its communities a better place to live through strong youth and health programs.

On behalf of the Hearst Newspapers I am proud to present the William Randolph Hearst Americanism Trophy to the Department of Maryland.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER EARL NUTTALL, MARYLAND: Mr. Irish, on behalf of the Department of Maryland, I accept this most prestigious award with a great deal of pride and humility. This award is a testimonial to the hard work and dedication of the 67,129 Legionnaires in the Department of Maryland.

It was a total team effort all down the line, and we certainly want to thank the National Commander and Hearst Newspapers for their efforts in promoting Americanism, not only in this country but throughout the entire world. Thank you so very much.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The Chair recognizes at this time Mr. Eugene Lindquist of Minnesota, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Children and Youth, for the purpose of making a report.

## REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

### Eugene V. Lindquist (Minnesota), Chairman

The Convention Committee on Children & Youth met at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 25, 1985, in the Regency Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The meeting was organized by electing Delegate Eugene Lindquist of Minnesota as Chairman and Delegate James Holley of Texas as Secretary. In attendance were 49 delegates along with nine guests. The delegates agreed upon the following report, which is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

The 1984-85 program was a measurable success. Thousands of dedicated Children & Youth volunteers gave many hours to assure the satisfactory completion of their various projects. The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary have joined forces at every level to assure the maximum benefits for every child in need. Together we have discovered that the needs of our nation's children have not been met through the offices of non-voluntary agencies. Though many state and federal programs are well intended, it is the **Volunteer** who serves as the backbone of many excellent programs. Legion and Auxiliary **Volunteers** working together have created a team approach that can't be beat.

Voluntarism is critical, but we also appreciate those who give financial support. We realize that many of our members are physically restricted, while others just don't have the time necessary to devote to a project. Many of these folks have given us support through generous contributions. Without such dedication at all levels, our programs for children and youth would have little chance for success.

During the 1984-85 program year, only 50 percent of our Posts reported to National on the Consolidated Post Report Form. From these Posts, we tallied in total expenditures for children and youth over 19 million dollars. Just think of the total figure we could report to Congress if we could increase our percentage in 1986 by only 10 percent. We continue to encourage your support of this reporting system.

Since the early 1920's, total expenditures for the Legion, Auxiliary and Eight and Forty combined have exceeded 52[illegible] million dollars. It is impossible to calculate the total number of children assisted by our programs. We can't tell you how many children were clothed, how many lives were saved, how many young lives were given new hope and direction because somebody cared. You can't put a price tag on the good that has been done. We can only be sure that we are helping and that many young people are receiving the help they need.

The Children & Youth program for 1984-85 was by far the most successful we have ever experienced. Our three major Areas of Concern have drawn praise and support from many outside agencies and individuals. Missing Children, Teenage Suicide Prevention and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Education have proven to be the hottest items in America today. We are proud to be at the forefront of such activities as we cooperate with other groups who share our concern. Other annual programs that deserve mention are Temporary Financial Assistance, National Family Week, Halloween Safety, Special Olympics, and April is Children & Youth Month.

At the Post, District and Department levels, we are aware of many fine programs conducted by the Legion for children. Many of these programs are not related to our national Areas of Concern. The philosophy of our National Commission has been that

any program that helps children is a program we can support. However, those who do choose our programs for local use often find it much easier to reach their objectives. This we attribute to a ready supply of brochures, films and references.

Every year we address the key issues affecting our nation's children. An important part of this work involves the legislative process. In order to overcome some problems, we need new laws or we need old laws changed. Your National Committee is aware of the current problems facing our youth, and many of these issues have come before us during our session this year.

After concerned deliberations on resolutions assigned to us, your Convention Committee on Children & Youth offers the following recommendations:

**Received and Recorded**

**Res. No. 1**, Arizona — **"Suppression of Drug Trade"**

**Referred**

**Res. No. 98**, District of Columbia — **"Use of Active and Reserve Military Forces to Augment Civil Authorities in the War Against Drugs"** — Referred to Standing Commission on Children & Youth.

**Res. No. 194**, Maryland — **"Suppression of Drug Trade"** — Referred to Standing Commission on Children & Youth.

**Approved As Amended**

**Res. No. 123**, Illinois — **"The American Legion Recognizes Organizations and Companies in Aiding in Locating Missing Children."**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has, through its Children & Youth Commission, adopted a program designed to locate missing children; and

WHEREAS, A number of organizations and companies have become involved in printing statistics and photographs on their products and releasing other important data pertaining to the problem of missing children; and

WHEREAS, Many of these organizations and companies have assisted in distributing data on missing children beyond their community boundaries, which increases the possibility of locating these individuals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, That all organizations and agencies in our Departments be recognized by the National Commission on Children & Youth upon request of Department Officers for their work in the area of missing children by the presentation of an appropriate citation.

Mr. Commander, I move for the adoption of this report.

. . . The motion was seconded by National Executive Committeeman Robert W. Durand, New Mexico, and carried.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: One of The American Legion's longest-standing policies on education encourages a belief that scholarship assistance to deserving students should be expanded through every possible means. And, that policy also requires our organization to bend every effort to let potential recipients be aware of opportunities open to them.

Last May, your National Executive Committee adopted a resolution urging Posts and Departments to consider participation in a new scholarship program: The Adolph Coors Company Veterans' Memorial Scholarship Fund which was established specifically to assist only the children of honorably discharged American servicemen and women.

You may have noticed the works of combat art on display outside the Convention Hall in the Superdome. They were done on behalf of all veterans by the noted artist George Skypeck at the request of The Adolph Coors Company.

With us today is a representative of Adolph Coors, and I'd like to introduce him to you.

Ladies and gentleman, the Manager of Veterans Affairs of Adolph Coors Company, Mr. Warren Hutchings.

**MR. WARREN HUTCHINGS**

**Manager of Veterans Affairs of Adolph Coors Company**

Thank you very much. National Commander Bacon, National Officers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen of the State of Colorado, good morning. We at Coors are very very proud of the combat art work that has just been completed, and, as you know, a number of people have been standing since ten minutes of eight this morning and they are still out there waiting for sets. If everyone just takes one there will be enough for everyone. I brought a total of ten thousand sets with me for you, but after today you will have to pay for it.

We have had a very good year this year in Colorado. First of all we introduced the original art work in Golden in May of this year. At that time the family turned all of the art work over to the National Chartered Service Organizations. In September this art work will be shipped to Washington where it will go on display. The Service Organizations were so pleased with the art work that they are attempting to get them into the Smithsonian Institute, and if this be the case then you have something that is worth something.

We are also pleased this year to see our scholarship program go so well. This gives an opportunity to the sons and daughters of veterans to better their education. Hopefully we will be in a position to do this again next year.

**PRESENTATION**

At this time on behalf of the Adolph Coors Company we would like to present to our National Commander a framed set of the combat art. This is numbered Set 21 of 500, to you, Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you very much.

MR. HUTCHINGS: At this time I would like to give the Commander something I am quite sure that we would all be able to relate to, through his wife, through his Aide, through a number of people we managed to dust off his original dog tags and we have duplicated those dog tags. So, on behalf of the Coors Golden Dog Tag I award these to you, Commander Bacon. I would like to read what is on them. "Clarence M. Bacon, Chief Steward PUS. Navy," now I hope this is right, but if the number isn't don't blame me, "H329540."

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: That is correct.

MR. HUTCHINGS: "O positive."

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Warren, please extend my sincere appreciation to the Adolph Coors Company for that beautiful combat art set and for this plaque. There must have been a conspiracy going on because you did get everything correct on here, and I appreciate that. Thank you very much.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: I would like at this time to recognize the Adjutant of the Department of Massachusetts John Swift. Is the Department Commander of Massachusetts here? The Adjutant would like to have him come up, and while we are waiting for the Department Commander to arrive I would like to

ask Mr. Bob Spanogle the National Adjutant to give you some announcements.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: We have just received as of Monday, August 26, 1985, some 1985 regional baseball tournament updated information.

In Region 1 the champion game will be played by Connecticut and Maine. In Region number 2 Boyertown, Pennsylvania will play New Jersey. In Region number 3 Puerto Rico is the champion. In Region 4 Woodward, Oklahoma, is the champion. In Region number 5 Newfold, Minnesota is the champion. In Region number 6 South Dakota will play Omaha. In Region number 7 Sacramento, California, is the champion. In Region number 8 West Covina, California, is the champion.

I would like to make the second following announcement, that all 1985 American Legion Convention photos, which include the parade pictures which were taken yesterday, are now on display at the Hyatt across from the Emblem Sales on the third floor and will be there until 4:00 o'clock.

As you entered this hall today you received a survey form which was either given to you or was on your chair. It is called "Directions '86" survey. What this survey is is an unscientific opinion poll of those Delegates at this National Convention. It is to help the Veterans Planning and Coordinating Committee, which is chaired by the National Commander of The American Legion, to find out what your thoughts are and to zero in on veterans' needs. We encourage you to fill that out. There are collection boxes for that at the main entrances to the Superdome, at the Hyatt Regency on the third floor and at the Hyatt Regency on the first floor as well as one in the Hilton Hotel in the lobby and one at the Marriott Hotel. We ask you to drop those completed forms into the collection boxes because it is our chance to get your input into a very important Committee dealing with the problem of veterans budget. Thank you, Commander.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The Chair will now recognize the Department Commander and the Department Adjutant of Massachusetts.

**RESOLUTION**

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ANTHONY J. BICCHIERI, JR.: Thank you, comrade Commander.

Resolution:

WHEREAS, National Commander Clarence M. Bacon has shown outstanding leadership this Legion year; and

WHEREAS, Commander Bacon has proven to be diligent and has carried out the mandates of our organization as were voted by the Delegates at the 1984 National Convention; and

WHEREAS, He has consistently spoken out in behalf of all veterans, veterans' programs and policies, and in opposition to the proposed budget cuts proposed by this administration relating to the Veterans Administration and other important veterans benefits; and

WHEREAS, Commander Bacon has kept the entire membership of The American Legion abreast and well informed of all matters that affect the veteran, widow and orphan and has again and again proven to us that he has kept a constant vigil over the happenings that affect the present and the future of all facets of the veterans and their families lives; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Legionnaires of Massachusetts, in Convention assembled in Plymouth, Massachusetts, June 27, 28 & 29, 1985 commend and congratulate National Commander Clarence M. Bacon for the tremendous job he has done as our leader this year, and that a copy of this resolution be spread on the records of this, our 67th Annual Convention, and further, that a copy be forwarded to Commander Bacon.

Unanimously adopted by the Delegates assembled at the 67th Convention, Department of Massachusetts, held in Plymouth, Massachusetts, June 27, 28 & 29, 1985. Anthony J. Bicchieri, Jr., Department Commander and John P. Swift, Department Adjutant.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: To all the members of the Department of Massachusetts, thank you so very much for this great honor.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: It looks to me like we are running about close to a half an hour ahead of schedule this morning. If the Delegates would please rise we will have a right hand salute to the Colors.

. . . At this time, the Delegates stood and saluted the Colors.

. . . NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: This Convention will stand in recess until 8:30 tomorrow morning. Have a good day.

. . . At 11:30 A.M., the Convention was recessed to reconvene the following day, August 27, 1985, at 8:30 A.M.

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# PROCEEDINGS

## TUESDAY SESSION — AUGUST 27, 1985

. . . The Convention was called to order by National Commander Clarence M. Bacon (Maryland) at 8:45 A.M.

. . . The Delegates stood and saluted the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Ladies and gentlemen, please uncover and join with me in the Pledge of Allegience to the Flag of the United States of America.

. . . The Delegates stood and Pledged Allegience to the Flag.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: For the Invocation, I would like to call on our National Chaplain, Rev. Charles Rice of New York.

### INVOCATION

**Rev. Charles G. Rice, Jr. (New York)**
**National Chaplain**

Let us pray, oh, our God of hosts, we pray thee Almighty God to strengthen us, protect the soldiers, the sailors, the Coast Guard and the Marines, and the diplomatic corps, all the men of our Armed Forces stationed around the world. Support them in the day of battle if we come to that again.

In time of peace, keep them safe from all evil and imbue them with courage and loyalty.

Grant that in all things they may serve without reproach. We ask for Your continuing guidance in this American Legion, those of us who served our countries with honor in the past, and may they continue to serve this country for the good and welfare of all free men.

Last, but not the least, we give Thee thanks for those Thy servants who have laid down their lives in the service of our country. Grant to them Thy mercy in the light of Thy presence that the good work they began may be blessed in heaven with Thee personally in Thy presence, Amen.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The Convention is now in session.

We are honored to have with us this morning a representative of Government of our host state of Louisiana. He is a former State Senator, having represented the largest Senatorial District in area in Louisiana. He graduated with a Law Degree from Tulane University School of Law in 1966. Previously, he was graduated from the University of North Carolina, and he attended Cambridge University in England.

He currently is serving a second term as Secretary of State for the State of Louisiana.

Ladies and gentlemen, please help me welcome the Honorable Jim Brown.

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### THE HONORABLE JIM BROWN

**Secretary of State**
**State of Louisiana**

Commander Bacon, thank you very very much. It is indeed an honor to be here with you this morning to welcome this distinguished group to our State of Louisiana at its 67th Convention, over 6,000 Delegates coming to our fair City of New Orleans.

I am very proud to be here with you in several capacities.

Commander, you failed to mention I was a District Commander of The American Legion, that I served here in Louisiana some few years back. I think our Department Judge Advocate Bill Detweiler is here today, or at least is coming in a little later this morning.

I am very pleased to have you here, lots going on in Louisiana, a lot is going on in this country. The American Legion I think is important in its need today as it has ever been before. We are a rapidly changing world, lots and lots going on, and often we can get swept up in our own lives, I suppose, in terms of not keeping a proper prospective.

I think it is important that you have this convention in this room. I like to speak to conventions here in the Superdome because you can look around and it keeps our whole world in perspective in terms of the fact there is a lot going on. This is a magnificent facility that we are very very proud of. We like to be here on Sundays when the New Orleans' Saints are playing, but we like to have conventions like this going on on a regular basis throughout our State.

So, I want to bring you a brief welcome. Hope you thoroughly enjoy your stay in our City of New Orleans. If you haven't tried the black and red fish, it is certainly something you ought to try. We certainly have got the best food I think you will find anyplace in the country. We have got very friendly people.

We have a lot to do, and I want to welcome you and hope you will come back on many many occasions.

I will be here throughout the day enjoying part of your Convention going on in and out, and if there is any way that I personally can be of help or give you any suggestions or advice or solve any problems, I certainly hope you will count on me.

Thank you very very much for coming and I hope you will come back and see us again soon.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Our next guest this morning is deeply involved in an area that has concerned The American Legion for years and that is bringing about the fullest possible accounting of any American who is a prisoner of war or who is listed as missing in action.

U.S. Navy Commodore Thomas A. Brooks is a career Naval Intelligence Officer. He has served in Vietnam as Commanding Officer of a U.S. Navy Intelligence Operation and has been Senior Advisor to the Vietnamese Navy Security Service.

He attended Fordham University and specialized in Soviet Studies at the Colombia University Graduate School.

In his present position as Director of Collection Management of the Defense Intelligence Agency, one of his responsibilities is the collection and anaylsis of information regarding the POW/MIA situation in Southeast Asia.

Fellow Legionnaires, please welcome a man with a very important job, Commodore Thomas A. Brooks.

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**COMMODORE THOMAS A. BROOKS**

**Director of Collection Management**
**Defense Intelligence Agency**

Commander Bacon, distinguished visitors, Delegates to the 67th Convention. I would first like to assure you, Commander, that your National Staff is doing its job. Before I was allowed to come up here, Harold Kelly asked me, "Are you a member?"

I said, "No, I am not. My grandfather was. My father was; I have never gotten around to joining." So, before I was allowed to come up to the podium, I had to agree to join.

The subject I am going to speak to you about today, the issue of prisoners of war and missing in action in Indo-China, it is a subject of interest, not only to those of us who served in Vietnam and in America's past wars, but, perhaps more importantly, certainly as least as importantly to my son, to your sons and to those future generations which will have to fight America's wars.

When we went to war we were assured, and they must be assured, that if we were wounded, we would be recovered from the battlefield; we would be provided with the best medical attention, both immediately and, if necessary, for the rest of our lives; that if shot down, every effort would be made to recover us before the enemy captured us; and if captured, no effort would be spared to rescue us. They must be assured, as we were assured, that America accounts for its missing in action and America does not leave prisoners behind.

Before going on with my prepared remarks, I would like to thank The American Legion, the National Leadership, the individual Posts and all of the Legionnaires for your support on this issue over the years.

Your support has been critical to the League of Families and to the U.S. Government in our efforts to get an accounting with the over 2,400 men who are still missing in Indo-China.

All of us who are involved in this issue appreciate that support. We seek your continued support. Let me assure you that the letters, the petitions, the Community Awareness campaigns of which the Legion has been engaged have not gone unnoticed in Hanoi. If we had received from Hanoi the degree of cooperation that the dictates of basic humanity as well as the provisions of the 1973 Paris Accords should lead us to expect, then the questions in the minds of the families of those who are still missing would have been answered, and there would be no prisoner of war or MIA issue.

As we are painfully aware, such is not the case. We are endeavoring to demonstrate to the Vietnamese that it is very much in their interest to accelerate the settlement, the accounting for our POWs and MIAs. There should be no doubt in your minds this issue enjoys the highest national priority. The problem is not in Washington, the problem is in Hanoi.

For those who would say it has been 10 years since the fall of Saigon, it has been 12 years since the Paris Accords, since the return of our prisoners, why don't we normalize relations with Vietnam? My personal response to that as a Vietnam veteran, is, yes, I would like to see relations with Vietnam normalized as soon as, but not one minute before the account for all of our servicemen who are still unaccounted for.

There is no necessity for me to reemphasize for you today President Reagan's continuing commitment to this issue. He has expressed himself on this issue far more eloquently than I could ever express myself on his behalf. He is intensely interested, he is regularly briefed, he receives regular papers on the subject.

What I would like to emphasize, is that this commitment permeates the entire Government, Legislative and Executive Branches. In my little cubbyhole in the Defense Intelligence Agency where we are responsible for the collection and analysis of information, intelligence if you will, with regard to the POW/MIA issue, all of the men working for me, all of the men in the division from myself on down are Vietnam veterans. All of us lost friends, classmates, professional associates, some of whom are still there; dead, perhaps even alive. There is no lack of commitment on the part of those who are involved day to day. We have an obligation to those who are our comrades who were left behind, we have an obligation to the American people, and we have an obligation, as I mentioned before, to those future generations who will be called upon someday to fight.

After many years and various approaches by several Administrations, there is finally a unified cohesive U.S. Government policy and strategy to settle the issue, and I hasten to add this is not a political issue. I have not seen any political overtones. There is total bipartisan support for this issue. The Government is sensitized and working consistently to secure the return of any POW's that are held, and to achieve the fullest possible accounting for those who died in the service of this country.

And an inter-agency group has been formed that consists of the State Department, the Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Defense Intelligence Agency. The League of Families is very active in the inter-agency group, and they are working hard at hammering out our strategy.

I would like to think that the strategy is meeting with some success, that ultimately it will achieve the end of a complete accounting for all of our POW's and MIA's.

Now, in order to update you on where we stand with regard to this issue, it is necessary for me to go into some statistics. Numbers are very boring, and particularly this early in the morning, but I think it is necessary to run through a few numbers just to give you an idea of the quantity and the quality of the information that we are dealing with. It is not important at all that you remember any of the numbers. I would ask you to remember, if you remember nothing else from the speech, just two things, Number 1, the dedication of the U.S. Government to the efforts of accounting for all POW/MIA's and I would ask you to remember the basic premise under which we conduct our operations.

The bottom line question is always asked, are there Americans still alive in Indo-China being held against their will? We have not been able to prove that. Surely no one has been able to disprove that. The basic assumptions under which we do business is that there are at least some Americans alive and being held against their will in Indo-China and we will continue to operate on that assumption until such time as Hanoi gives us a full and proper accounting.

We actively pursue all intelligence information regarding the POW/MIA issue. Most, as you would imagine, some is from refugees from Indo-China, the Vietnam, the boat people, refugees from Laos, and to a much lesser degree, refugees from Cambodia. An integral part of the in-processing procedure for all refugees seeking asylum in the United States is questions eliciting POW/MIA information. Likewise, all refugees seeking asylum in other countries are interviewed by the joint volunteer agencies, United Nations Refugee Workers, and other officials to learn if they have any information with regard to Americans still alive in Indo-China.

My office makes periodic visits to Southeast Asia, where we talk to U.S. Government and joint volunteer agency representatives to ensure that they are sensitized to the degree of priority we place on POW/MIA information and to ensure that all the machinery is set up to guarantee that we get every bit of information which these refugees may possess.

And, ladies and gentlemen, there is no lack of information. During the past year the reports that we have received outnumber the reports we received a year ago. I must preface that remark,

however, with the observation that almost half of the total number of reports we received this year are what we categorized as dog tag reports. These are reports being brought out by refugees who either had dog tags, or have perhaps grubbings of dog tags or have information such as name, rank, serial number, blood type and religion, which typically would come from a dog tag.

Now, interestingly, 90% of those dog tag reports pertain to Americans who either have come home safely or who were killed in Indo-China, and their remains have been repatriated and buried in the United States; in other words, 90% of those reports don't pertain to Americans alive in Indo-China at all.

Now, the question that this begs, of course, is why is this kind of information — obviously manufactured information — information being provided to these Vietnamese refugees? Why is this information being fed into the system?

One can only conclude that it is a deliberate misinformation campaign on the part of Hanoi designed to inflame and confuse the POW/MIA issue.

It has been successful in diverting a lot of our efforts to running down these leads, efforts that might be more profitably spent elsewhere. These reports have also captured the imagination of some in the private sector who have recirculated the information, often to the families of those who were killed in action, much to their personal distress.

Since the fall of Indo-China in 1975, we have received over 4,000 reports pertaining to POW/MIA's in Indo-China. This includes gravesite, crash site, dog tag information, and some, about 20%, pertains to reported live sightings of Caucasians in Indo-China.

We have resolved most of these live sightings. Most of them rather old, pertain to people who have returned already to the United States.

About 130 of them, however, are unresolved. The 130 reports of live sightings of Caucasians, some since 1975, only one since 1980, but unresolved. We have not been able to correlate them to anyone who returned. Of these 130 reports, almost half, just about half, pertain to Caucasians sighted in a non-prisoner environment; in other words, Caucasians sighted freely roaming the streets of Hanoi or Saigon, Caucasians with Vietnamese wives and families. These sightings, of course, may not be Americans at all. They could be Soviet advisors, they could be East European diplomats, they could be press, they could be Western businessmen.

After we deduct the sightings of Caucasians in a non-prisoner environment — and I think it is important to point out in almost all cases the Vietnamese who are reporting sightings of Caucasians are reporting just that. "I saw a Caucasian, I believe he was American."

"Well, why do you believe he was an American? Did you speak to him?"

"No, I did not speak to him, someone told me he was, an American," or, "Well, he looks like an American."

We have very very few who claim that they saw people that they know to be American.

Nonetheless, we are left with 71 reports of Caucasians, assumedly Americans, being held in the plastic captive environment, and needless to say, it is on the 71 reports that we concentrate our greatest efforts.

As I mentioned before, there is a wide span of time represented by these reports. Fully one-third of them are before the fall of Saigon in 1975. As I mentioned before, only one has been reported since 1980.

However difficult these cases are to prove, we are attempting to verify all information which refugees provide to us. I should emphasize that all cases, all 4,000 plus cases remain open so that we can use them to correlate any future information which we may receive.

One of the avenues that we are very actively pursuing to obtain an accounting is to seek the assistance of other friendly governments who have regular relations with Vietnam. We are grateful to a number of countries for their efforts to emphasize to the Vietnamese leadership the wisdom and humanity and, indeed, necessity for cooperating with the United States in resolving this issue.

For several years the governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASAN, have sought to convey the need to Hanoi to be more forthcoming on this issue.

In recent months the UN Secretary General and the Foreign Minister of Australia have both taken up this issue with the Hanoi leadership at our request. One statesman who made a particular contribution on our behalf is Indonesian Foreign Minister Motar who met with the Vietnamese this spring; indeed, we are very grateful to all the ASEAN nations.

It is the attitude of the Vietnamese government of course, which is the single most important factor in resolving the fate of our missing men. Hanoi has finally agreed with us that this is the issue which should be treated as a humanitarian issue quite independent from other issues which separate our countries. Hanoi has also agreed to accelerate cooperation on this issue. The recent repatriation of 26 remains and information pertaining to six more is a very welcome sign. Also the recent statement of the Vietnamese that they would like to settle this issue in the next two years. We don't know precisely what they mean by that, but we assume that they are serious in their proposal, and we are proceeding in that spirit to hold talks with them in Hanoi.

I have to point out that since 1981 to get where we are today, it has taken five high-level policy meetings in both Hanoi and New York, 10 technical meetings in Hanoi, numerous additional other sessions between the League of Families and the Vietnamese, several trips by Congressional delegations, scores of interventions by other countries, and the success of the Public Awareness program in which The American Legion has been so instrumental.

Of course, not all our efforts are directed towards the Vietnamese. There are over 500 Americans unaccounted for in Laos, and that is a country with which we do have normal diplomatic relations.

After more than a decade of various approaches to the Laotians, they finally agreed to carry out the first crash site excavation in a decade, and that was conducted this past spring. The Laos government participated fully in the excavation, and the Americans who participated were very impressed with their professionalism and cooperation. The Laotians did all they could to see to it that the excavation was a success. We are highly gratified for this cooperation and look forward to its continuation.

Just last month the Laotian government agreed to schedule a visit by Laotian personnel and the U.S. Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii in order to better understand how we identify people whose remains come from these crash and grave sites. They have also agreed to an additional excavation in this coming dry season. We appreciate the cooperation of the Laotian government and the concrete demonstration of their intent to continue it. The process is one which I am sure will prove to be of mutual benefit.

The success of our Public Awareness programs has generated a whole host of POW/MIA groups and individuals, some of whom operate with most noble and sincere motives, but many of whom have their own ideas on how we should go about solving this problem. Many appear to subscribe to a theory that prisoners in bamboo cages who could be rescued if only the U.S. Government was interested enough, only if the people in the United States and

the United States Government and the United States military were brave enough. Ladies and gentlemen, I would suggest if all it took was interest, dedication and bravery, we would find enough of that in this room today to settle the issue in 24 hours. It is not as simple as that.

I would ask you to recall the movie, Rambo. I was interviewed on radio for about five mintues before I came here this morning, and the question was asked with respect to the movie, Rambo. I said, "Yes, I saw the movie. The key thing to remember in the movie was that Rambo, before he conducted his little one-man raid, entered the jungles of Indo-China, knew where the prisoners were, he knew where he was going, he knew where to locate the prisoners."

If we had this type of information, I would quote to you what the Vice-President of the United States said to the Convention of the League of Families in June. "If we get this kind of information, we will act."

We have all seen proposals for simplistic solutions that make it appear that the problem is in Washington and not in Hanoi, but with a generated added frustration — and believe me there is a lot of frustration in this business — or by sincere but misguided motives, the result is the same. Hanoi reads it as a reason to delay responding in hopes that they can perhaps cut a better deal.

Special commissions, such as those being proposed, have a substantive purpose in areas where there is not broad bipartisan government support. Such is not the case with the POW/MIA issue. The Government accepts its legal and moral obligations to account for our missing.

Progress on the POW/MIA issue has been a long-term effort. Often, as I mentioned before, fraught with frustration. We intend in persevering in what must be done. Our greatest hopes for success lies in the government to government effort now being pursued under the priority established by our President. This approach, fully supported on a bipartisan basis in Congress, backed by a united and informed citizenry, is a powerful message to the Indo-Chinese government, and I believe its success is evidenced in the recent limited but very promising statements that the Vietnamese have made.

It has been my pleasure to speak to The American Legion on this issue today. I would seek your continuing support. I would pledge to you the continuing efforts of those in Government to resolve this issue. Those men were your comrades in arms and we owe them no less. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you, Commodore Brooks. As you know the POW/MIA issue is one that The American Legion is deeply committed to seeing completely and satisfactorily resolved as quickly as possible. We have a policy position that we will not rest until we have a full accounting for all of those POW/MIA's in Southeast Asia and around the world.

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## COMMUNICATION FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: I have a distinct pleasure at this time to read a letter from the Vice President of the United States. Vice President Bush said, "Dear Commander Bacon: Please accept and extend to my fellow Legionnaires and members of The American Legion Auxiliary my personal best wishes for a most productive and enjoyable 67th Annual National Convention.

"Since its founding, The American Legion has served to remind all citizens of what America can and should be. Representing America's finest, our military service veterans, your voice is heard and your actions felt across this great land and throughout the world. As a result of your efforts, our nation is stronger, our citizens healthier, better educated, more law-abiding and more patriotic than ever before in our history.

"The work that you do at your Convention is important as it sets the framework for the future.

"I look forward to reading your proceedings and meeting with your leaders to discuss these matters which are of mutual interest. I extend to you our thanks for all you have done, and my support for the good work The American Legion will continue to do to keep America Number 1."

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Ladies and gentlemen, at this time we are delighted to have with us this morning a very accomplished lady. I met her and her husband, Gene, last night at the Auxiliary All States Banquet, and she has graciously accepted an invitation to speak to us today.

Some of her Senatorial Committee assignments have great importance to The American Legion. She is on the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Children, Family, Drugs and Alcoholism, and she is on the Senate Special Committee on Aging, subjects very close to The American Legion.

She is one of this nation's leading advocates in the battle against child abuse, and she was instrumental in the adoption of this nation's Missing Children Act.

I might add, that as of last night, her husband is now a member of Winter Park, Florida, Post. No. 7, and I signed her up into Auxiliary Post Unit No. 7.

So welcome one of the newest members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Sen. Paula Hawkins.

## THE HONORABLE PAULA HAWKINS

### U.S. Senator, Florida

Thank you, Commander. It is a privilege to speak to you briefly this morning, and convey my admiration and my gratitude for your constant attention to those matters that I hold most dear, those of country, and those of patriotism, and those of pride and service, and your interest in educating the young children and why we should be proud to be Americans, and also the great interest you take in youth. The children of this nation are our future. Without your undivided attention on these children, we may be working in vain.

I am of the old generation, where I look to see the flag flying, very patriotic, and I must tell you, that it just doesn't stem from the brave young guy that I married, who served with very great distinction in the Second World War, but my father was a Navy career man, and I am a Navy "brat," I believe you call them.

I thought everybody moved to a new school every year. But I learned later that that is a great learning experience for life. And I must tell you, that we must work more diligently than ever before to raise a generation of Americans who are proud to be that and will pledge their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor for this great country.

As we watch with great sorrow the spy case unravel here in America, amongst our own, and then watch with great shock and only know very little about the spy cases in Germany, as we meet this morning, you must understand that we are operating in very troubled times.

Abraham Lincoln said that it was not with presidents, not with politicians, and not with office-seekers upon which rests the question, shall this country and its greatest liberties last a genera-

tion. The answer he said, is in your hands. The answer is in the public's hands.

Those who treasure and love liberty and nourish that liberty each day will be able to hand that liberty to the next generation, but it is very important that we pay attention, and that we educate, and that we meet as you do.

And I must tell you, that I don't know how much money it is going to take to be able to defend this country, but I'm willing to make that sacrifice and support this President in whatever he thinks is necessary to have a full commitment for a strong military United States.

We also can manage our own military affairs very well. Nothing would be worth it, of course, if we were to lose that wonderful liberty that we take so lightly. We have a waiting list of people to get into the United States. We do not have a list of people that want to leave the United States.

These are troubled times, and I thank you ladies and gentlemen for the great service you rendered in a war and wars that were not popular then. Wars are even less popular today, but we do owe you such a great deal of gratitude, that it is my great honor to serve a state that is probably the fastest growing state of retired veterans of any state of the United States, and I invite the rest of you to consider Florida for your permanent residence, if you haven't done that already.

It is my honor to be the new Member of the American Legion Auxiliary. I must tell you that I will do whatever is necessary to meet that challenge. And I have other challenges, but I feel a lot like the young lad who wrote on the fly leaf of his diary in the Battle of Chateau Therry, that as he wrote in his diary, he said, "I will work, I will sacrifice, I will endure. I will fight cheerfully as if the whole struggle depended on me alone."

That is a good motto for all of us to adopt.

I look forward to a bright future and a great tomorrow with your friendship. I admire this organization beyond words. And I must commend you for your continued attention to the kindliness that lights that flame and the torch of the Statute of Liberty. God bless you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you very much, Sen. Hawkins.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The Chair now recognizes Melvin (Doc) Simon of Vermont, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Foreign Relations for a report.

## REPORT OF NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

### Melvin (Doc) Simon, (Vermont) Chairman

At 9 A.M., Sunday, August 25, 1985, 54 Delegates and Alternates assigned to the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations met initially in Meeting Room 4 of the Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Doc Simon, (VT) was elected Chairman, and Mr. Arturo T. Benavides (TX), was appointed secretary.

Following this initial meeting, the six Convention Subcommittees met in separate locations, to consider the resolutions which had been assigned to them. Their recommended action is carried in the initial portion of this report. The following were appointed chairmen:

**General Foreign Policy:** Chairmen: A. J. Forestiere (AR)
**African Affairs:** Chairman: George T. Lewis (TN)
**European Affairs:** Chairman: Donald S. Houser (VA)
**Far Eastern Affairs:** Chairman: Keith Baker (IA)
**Inter-American Affairs:** Chairman: David S. Lusby (D.C.)
**Middle Eastern Affairs:** Chairman: Edmund Zachman (OH)

At 2:30 P.M., on August 25, the Delegates again assembled in Meeting Room 4 of the Superdome, for a final meeting of the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations. Reports of all Convention Subcommittees were read and their recommended action on resolutions considered. A total of 66 resolutions were assigned to the Convention Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee originated nine other resolutions.

The following Subcommittee reports contain resolutions which will, in conjunction with resolutions previously adopted, provide an effective and viable Foreign Relations Program for The American Legion. That program will fully support a strong and dynamic U.S. Foreign Policy, to promote democracy around the world, and discharge American responsibilities as the leader of the free world, in the continuing struggle to defend and promote liberty and resist Soviet imperialism.

### General Foreign Policy

. . . Chairman A. J. Forestiere (AR) submitted the following:

### APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

**RES. 37** (VT) — as amended — **United Nations**

WHEREAS, The United Nations has frequently failed to achieve its basic purposes of maintaining international peace and security, and politization of some UN activities has drastically reduced the UN's effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, The United States provides the greatest assessed share of the UN budget (25%) and provides an even higher percentage of voluntary contributions to some United Nations special programs; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations continues to be effective by coordinating international cooperation in some functional areas (such as refugee relief, meterology and coordination of radio frequency use); and

WHEREAS, The U.S. withdrawal from the United Nations would very likely result in the United Nations becoming an unchecked anti-U.S. propaganda arena for the Soviet Union and the Third World; and

WHEREAS, Many Soviet diplomats and diplomats from Soviet-bloc nations at the UN are intelligence agents principally engaged in stealing technological secrets from the U.S., making the United Nations a base for foreign espionage; and

WHEREAS, The United States withdrew from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on December 31, 1984 because UNESCO has engaged in politization, extravagance, and a trend toward collectivism; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we urge the Administration to continue seeking effective, equitable, efficient U.N. operations consistent with the U.N. Charter's stated purposes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Administration to continue to take necessary action to eliminate espionage operations against the United States at the United Nations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Foreign Relations Commission continue

to study and evaluate U.S. participation in the United Nations and report periodically.

**RES. 178** (AR) — as amended and consolidated with **Res. 24(ND), 71(MT), 85(LA), 129(IL), 185(IN), 203(MD), 250(PA), 251(PA), 358(VA), 359(VA) — Terrorism**

WHEREAS, International state terrorism is becoming increasingly prevalent, impeding civilized conduct and causing target states to restrict increasingly the lives of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Government and American interests at home and abroad are increasingly becoming terrorist targets; and

WHEREAS, To make concessions to terrorists or alter policy as the result of terrorist actions, although possibly expedient in the short run, invites even more terrorist actions in the long run; and

WHEREAS, On April 2, 1984, the President issued new guidance on terrorism in National Security Decision Directive 138, reportedly calling for preemptive strikes against terrorists, expanded intelligence collection in the United States by the FBI and elsewhere by the CIA, and formation of anti-terrorist units in the CIA, FBI and Department of Defense. Furthermore, the President will request the Congress to pass new anti-terrorist laws, including payment of huge rewards for information on terrorists; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that it strongly supports the initiatives taken by the President and urges the U.S. Government to carry through by assigning the highest priority to combatting terrorism and to retaliate swiftly and decisively against perpetrators of terrorist acts; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Organization of The American Legion go on record as supporting the President of the United States on any action he may deem necessary to try to solve this deliberate, unfortunate and unexcusable terrorist situation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the news media be solicited to exercise responsibility and restraint in recounting acts of terror in order to reduce their propaganda effect and to report those claiming responsibility only after the proper law enforcement agencies have apprehended the perpetrators.

**RES. 184** (IN) — as amended — **U.S. Institute of Peace**

WHEREAS, Our country, since 1946, has in complying with Salt I and II Treaties, destroyed much military equipment, refrained from modernizing our naval fleets in several oceans, delayed building bombers to replace old B52s, and kept the MX Missile on the drawing board for 20 years, thus allowing Soviet Russia, which ignored those treaties, to gain military superiority; and

WHEREAS, Though now aware that we can only be assured of peace through strength, our re-arming encounters opposition of some 60 peace and pacifist groups coordinating with the leftist War Resisters League and the Soviet World Peace Council; and

WHEREAS, Militant coalitions are training members to engage in civil disobedience at defense industries and nuclear plants and to obstruct U.S. foreign policy in Central America; and

WHEREAS, To further weaken the will of the American people, activists have lobbied Congress and are now pressuring the President to establish a National Peace Institute with a starting budget of $16 million and to appoint a board of directors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that:

1) With scores of well publicized coalitions promoting peace, too often at any price, no taxpayer money should be spent for peace scholarships nor should the $4 million allocated for post-graduate college studies and granting of degrees in peace advocacy, be implemented as such was never envisioned in our Constitution.

2) That such Peace Institute may have access to classified data of the Defense Department is dangerous because student employees of the Institute may not be required to have security clearance.

3) That our Congressmen, Senators and the President be requested to use every legal means to prevent the expenditure of the funds appropriated for such Institute. Such funds should be applied to reduce the National Debt, because a Peace Institute can only be at cross purposes with constitutional duties of State and Defense Departments and that the legislation creating such duplication ought to be repealed.

**RES. 201** (MD) — as amended and consolidated with **Res. 360(VA) The Information War**

WHEREAS, Hundreds of millions of people in many countries do not have access to objective news reports, lack accurate information about democracy, free enterprise and American life and are subjected to extensive communist propaganda and disinformation; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union, recognizing the vital importance of the "information War" has vastly surpassed the United States in resources devoted to the information field; and

WHEREAS, Radio Marti went on the air on May 21, 1985 to offer the Cuban people a wide range programming, emphasizing objective news reporting about Cuba. The American Legion was an early and active supporter of Radio Marti as a beacon of hope and enlightment for the downtrodden Cuban people; and

WHEREAS, The United States has made some modest recent increases in resources for the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, etc.; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that the United States Government should adopt a long-range program supported by adequate funding to providing the following to communist and communist-dominated nations. objective news reporting, information on American life; information on Western democratic and economic concepts; and accurate information on Soviet-bloc life, including suppression of freedom in communist societies and attempts to dominate other nations.

**RES. 202** (MD) — consolidated with **Res. 357(VA) Foreign Aid**

WHEREAS, Since World War II the United States has effectively used foreign aid as an important means of achieving national security objectives; and

WHEREAS, Economic assistance has helped improve economic growth in many lesser developed countries, created new markets for U.S. exports and provided badly needed humanitarian relief; and

WHEREAS, Security assistance has aided friendly nations in improving their military capabilities, thereby helping meet the increasing worldwide Soviet military threat; and

WHEREAS, Although the United States is the largest donor of development aid, our donations represent only .2% (two-tenths of one percent) of our annual gross national product. (In the early 1960s, the comparable percentage figure was three times larger.) Several other nations donate larger percentages of their outputs; and

WHEREAS, Compared to other types of spending, the U.S. foreign aid program is relatively modest, it represents less than 2% of the federal budget; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, the Commission on Security and Economic Assistance appointed by the President and chaired by Mr. Frank Carlucci, former Deputy Secretary of Defense, concluded: "On balance . . . U.S. assistance programs make an indispensable

contribution to achieving foreign policy objectives."; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we urge the American people to support and the U.S. Government to continue to use foreign aid as a legitimate, effective means of achieving U.S. national security objectives through helping friendly nations achieve economic growth and military security.

**RES. 223** (MD) — consolidated with **Res. 314(NY), 361(VA) Nuclear Proliferation**

WHEREAS, The nuclear club now includes six nations: the United States (1945), Soviet Union (1949), Great Britain (1952), France (1960), Peoples Republic of China (1964) and India (1974); and

WHEREAS, Several other nations are believed to be very close to possessing nuclear weapons, and many other nations will acquire the knowledge to manufacture nuclear weapons in coming decades; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear proliferation is contrary to U.S. national interests because the spread of nuclear weapons will complicate national strategic planning, impede arms control and increase the possibility of nuclear weapons being used for terrorism or blackmail; and

WHEREAS, Several desirable, but imperfect, steps have been taken to prevent nuclear proliferation, including: International Atomic Energy Agency (1957), to promote and regulate peaceful uses of nuclear power; Nonproliferation Treaty (1970), to halt the spread of nuclear weapons; and U.S. Nuclear Nonproliferation Act of 1978, to insure U.S. nuclear exports are used for peaceful purposes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we urge the U.S. Government to take all reasonable steps to halt nuclear proliferation and that we will inform our membership and the American people about this crucial topic.

**RES. 329** (CA) — as amended — **Genocide Convention**

WHEREAS, In 1940 the word genocide was devised from the Greek word "genos" (meaning race or tribe) and the Latin suffix "cide" (meaning killing), hence genocide means the killing of a race; and

WHEREAS, Americans abhor genocide; and

WHEREAS, The Genocide Convention does apply to individuals of signatory countries, who can be charged with "mental harm" to another individual because of race, religion or nationality; and

WHEREAS, An accused individual can be tried in a court of his own land, but, even if exonerated, the Genocide Convention provides for him to be brought before an international court in a foreign land (for an American that would mean trial without the protection of the Constitution of the United States); and

WHEREAS, Treaties and conventions have in the United States always been limited to dealings with a foreign nation with regard to matters of international concern and not to restriction of the American people in their purely internal concerns; and

WHEREAS, This convention has no effect on nations but applies only to individuals; therefore, it violates this test of constitutionality; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we unalterably oppose the Genocide Convention and urge the Senate to reject it.

**RES. 425** (Committee) — **National Endowment for Democracy**

WHEREAS, The United States, despite numerous individual public and private programs, until recently has not had a coordinated program to further democratic ideals around the world; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan proposed action in his speech to the British Parliament on June 8, 1982 to "foster the infrastructure of democracy — the system of free press, unions, political parties, universities — which allows people to choose their own way . . . President Reagan also pointed out that the determination of the world's future "will not be bombs and rockets, but a test of wills and ideas, a trial of spiritual resolve . . . ; and

WHEREAS, The National Endowment for Democracy was established in 1983 as a non-profit, private organization seeking to encourage democratic institution building abroad; Congress first provided funding for the National Endowment for Democracy in Fiscal Year 1984, but there has been considerable opposition to it on the grounds that it is a "loose cannon" in international affairs and could cause embarrassment to the United States; and

WHEREAS, The National Endowment for Democracy is a bipartisan organization providing grants to various organizations engaged in promotion of democracy around the world. Its specific objectives are to encourage democractic institutions, facilitate international exchanges to study democracy, promote democratic training programs, strengthen democratic electoral processes, support participation by private sector U.S. groups in fostering cooperation with counterparts abroad, and encourage the growth of democratic development; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we fully support the National Endowment for Democracy and urge Congress to provide full funding for its activities.

**Received and Recorded Resolution**

**RES. 177 (AR)** existing policy, **Res. 11,** Fall National Executive Committee Meeting, 1984 **Amend the Freedom of Information Act**

**RESOLUTION REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMISSION ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

**RES. 51(MA) United Nations**

**Rejected Resolutinos**

**RES. 330(CA) Trilateral Commission and its Parent Organization, The Council on Foreign Relations**

**RES. 342(WI) Genocide Convention**

**RES. 331(CA) Trilateral Commission and its Parent Organization, The Council on Foreign Relations**

**AFRICAN AFFAIRS**

CHAIRMAN GEORGE T. LEWIS, Tennessee: Mr. Commander, distinguished guests and fellow Legionnaires, the Subcommittee on African Affairs makes the following report:

**Approved Resolutions**

**RES. 198** — (MD) consolidated with **Res. 356(VA) Namibia**

WHEREAS, Negotiations have been underway for several years among the Western Contact Group (United States, Canada, France, West Germany and Britain), concerned African States, the Southwest Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO) and the Republic of South Africa concerning the future of Namibia; and

WHEREAS, About 15,000-20,000 Cuban troops in Angola continue to project an unwanted Marxist presence in the region; and

WHEREAS, A peaceful, prosperous, multiracial Namibia free

of Soviet domination is of considerable importance to the United States because of Namibia's strategic location and mineral wealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we support an agreement on Namibian independence which is acceptable to the governments of the United States and Republic of South Africa and provides for free and fair elections, withdrawal of South African forces, independence for Namibia and withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola.

**RES. 313** (NY) — as amended and consolidated with **Res. 312(NY) Famine Relief for Central Africa**

WHEREAS, The problem of hunger throughout the world has escalated and continues to soar toward epidemic proportions; and

WHEREAS, The people of Africa are facing what may be the worst famine of the 20th Century, due to serious drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, Worsening conditions in Africa will result in millions of our fellow human beings falling victim to severe illness, suffering and death; and

WHEREAS, Bob Geldorf conceived the music fest which has raised millions of dollars for this cause; and

WHEREAS, It has been the policy of The American Legion to assist those in need, and to support programs to enhance the well being of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion support the efforts of United States State Department-approved organizations offering relief and assistance to famine stricken areas of Africa.

### Received and Recorded Resolutions

**RES. 4(AZ)** — existing policy **Res. 481,** 66th National Convention **South Africa**

**RES. 99(DC)** — existing policy **Res. 481,** 66th National Convention **South Africa**

## EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN DONALD S. HOUSER, Virginia: This is the Report of the European Affairs Committee:

### Approved Resolutions

**RES. 29** (Panama Canal) — as amended **Soviet-Made Merchandise**

WHEREAS, Almost 40 years ago General Maxwell D. Taylor spoke before the Corps of Cadets and told them that economics would become the most important factor in deciding the outcome of the conflict between the Free World and the Soviet Bloc; and

WHEREAS, The price of labor is one of the most important factors in economics and the ability to work where and how one chooses is one of the most important factors separating free labor from slave labor; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Bloc, epitomized by the Soviet Union, does, in fact, employ slave labor to mine coal, timber, and produce other products; and this immoral practice not only is contrary to the bettering of the world for mankind but iniquitously uses Free World moneys to justify/maintain that slavery; and

WHEREAS, Buying products made with slave labor is tantamount to perpetuating slavery; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Government has not enforced the statute which bans the importation of 36 classes of merchandise made with slave forced labor in the U.S.S.R.; and

WHEREAS, The Free World, epitomized by the United States of America, should do what is morally and economically correct: reward and pay frugal prices for paid labor and deny payments to slave holders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that the President of the United States and the U.S. Government be reminded of the will of Congress: prohibit the importation of goods made with slave labor and, in particular, the 36 classes of merchandise made in the U.S.S.R. that are banned by the United States Congress.

**RES. 50** (MA) — as amended **Poland**

WHEREAS, The country of Poland, an American ally during World War II, has been working for greater social and economic reform and independence from the totalitarian system imposed by the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, Polish Solidarity workers have insisted on the right to strike and bargain collectively, which is contrary to Leninism and Soviet communism; and

WHEREAS, Numerous factions in Poland, such as farmers, factory workers, students and intellectuals, have asserted their right to exercise self-determination of their own lives now; and

WHEREAS, Polish communist secret police have terrorized Solidarity leaders, members of the Roman Catholic Church, and political prisoners; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we encourage democracy for Poland's citizens and we oppose colonial exploitation by the Soviet Union of Poland.

### Received and Recorded Resolution

**RES. 5(AZ)** — existing policy **Res. 451,** 66th National Convention **Atlantic Alliance (NATO)**

### Resolution Referred to the Standing Commission on Foreign Relations

**RES. 347(MA) Salt II**

### Rejected Resolutions

**RES. 3(AZ) Retention of Alaskan Islands**
**RES. 183(IN) Retention of Alaskan Islands**

## FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN KEITH BAKER, Iowa: This is the Report of the Far Eastern Affairs Subcommittee:

### Approved Resolutions

**RES. 288** (MN) — as amended **Support "Empty Chair" Program (POW/MIA)**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has supported the cause of the POW/MIA families and only a continued effort on the part of all Americans, and especially The American Legion, to keep this issue before those in the Executive and Legislative branches of government is deemed absolute, and a continued symbolic gesture would keep this issue in the forefront of all Legionnaires; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that the National Commander encourage Posts, Units, Districts and

Departments to implement the Empty Chair Program at all official meetings as a continual physical symbol of the POW/MIAs and the cause for which we stand, namely their return or full accounting; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That at each empty chair a POW/MIA Flag be displayed.

**RES. 317** (NY) — as amended and consolidated with **Res. 199(MD), 412(Philippines) Philippines**

WHEREAS, Following Commodore Dewey's 1898 victory over Spanish naval forces in Manila Bay, the Philippines became a U.S. colony and remained so until independence was granted in 1946; and

WHEREAS, The United States and the Philippines fought as allies to defeat the Japanese in World War II, an experience that established many U.S.-Philippines ties, as did the relatively constructive and benign U.S. policies during the colonial era; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, many severe problems have confronted the Philippines, including an economic downturn, increasing foreign debt, political dissension, and growing communist insurgency; and

WHEREAS, U.S. policy toward the Philippines has consistently favored democracy, economic development and military cooperation; and

WHEREAS, Since 1947 the United States has used designated military bases in the Philippines, the lastest agreement being signed in 1983 and calling for continued U.S. use of Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base for five years in exchange for $900 million in U.S. economic and military aid; and

WHEREAS, Loss of U.S. base rights for Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base would severely hamper the projection of U.S. naval and air power in the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, urge the U.S. Government to pursue policies toward the Philippines which will permit continued U.S. use of Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base, encourage the strengthening of democracy, promote economic development and provide material aid to defeat the communist insurgency; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Philippine Government, in a spirit of friendship and comradeship, to pursue policies which will encourage reform in the armed forces of the Philippines by selecting professionals with unblemished records and reputations; in the economy by reducing and eventually eliminating monopolies, especially in the sugar and coconut industries; and in politics by ensuring fair and open elections.

**RES. 355** (VA) — as amended **Cambodia**

WHEREAS, From 1975-1978 the Khmer Rouge (communist) government of Pol Pat attempted to restructure Cambodian society, killing 2-3 million people in the process — almost half the population of Cambodia (or Kampuchea, as it is sometimes called); and

WHEREAS, In 1978, Vietnam invaded Cambodia and installed a puppet regime headed by Heng Samrin and treated Cambodia as a colony; and

WHEREAS, Opposition to the Vietnamese and their puppet regime has continued by the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, composed of non-communist factions headed by deposed Prince Sihanouk and former Prime Minister Son Sann and the communist Khmer Rouge faction; and

WHEREAS, Communist China has provided aid to the Khmer Rouge but the United States has not aided the non-communist factions, fearing involvement in a renewed Southeast Asia conflict; and

WHEREAS, There now appears to be a desire by many members of Congress to provide some sort of U.S. aid to the non-communist factions of the Cambodian resistance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we urge the U.S. Government to provide adequate military aid to the non-communist Cambodian resistance and humanitarian aid to Cambodian refugees, without the use of U.S. military personnel.

**RES. 370** (IA) — consolidated with **Res. 33(NH), 130(IL), 204(MD), 249(PA), 315(NY), 380(WV) POW/MIAs**

WHEREAS, There are currently over 2,450 Americans still missing or otherwise unaccounted for in Indochina; and

WHEREAS, The families of those U.S. servicemen and civilians missing in Indochina still suffer untold grief and uncertainty due to lack of an adequate accounting; and

WHEREAS, The President has declared the issue of Americans missing or otherwise unaccounted for in Indochina a matter of highest national priority, raised intelligence priorities, and initiated high-level dialogue with the government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on this issue; and

WHEREAS, These efforts have resulted in the repatriation of the remains of 30 missing servicemen during the past four years; and

WHEREAS, The government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has agreed to continue and increase cooperation with the United States, based on the successful joint recovery effort conducted in early 1985, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has indicated willingness to consider the U.S. proposal for joint excavation of U.S. aircraft crash sites with their pledge to accelerate co-operation with the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we support the President's pledge of highest national priority to resolve the status of Americans still missing and unaccounted for in Indochina; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we support the U.S. Government policy that the fullest possible accounting can only be achieved through government-to-government cooperation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That we urge the U.S. Government to ensure this issue remains one of the highest national priority and to accelerate efforts in every honorable way to obtain the immediate release of any Americans who may still be held captive in Indochina, and the fullest possible accounting of those still missing and repatriation of the remains of those who died serving our nation.

To amplify the intent of this resolution, in the light of recent favorable developments of the POW/MIA situation, the Special POW Committee asks everyone here to write Hanoi urging a speedy complete solution of this humanitarian problem, which is of utmost concern to all Americans.

Our POW Information Booth is located near Emblem Sales in this Superdome. You can get information there, including the address which you should write to in Hanoi.

. . . Chairman Baker continued as follows:

**RES. 426** (Committee) — **POW/MIA Postage Stamp**

WHEREAS, The American Legion since 1968 has pressed for the fullest possible accounting for the POW/MIAs in Indochina; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is working cooperatively with the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia to help bring about the fullest awareness by the American public on this most crucial issue; and

WHEREAS, The issuance of a U.S. postage stamp bearing the logo of the National League of POW/MIA Families (depicting a

prisoner of war with a prison camp guard tower over his shoulder, barbed wire extending horizontally behind the prisoner in silhouette form, with the words "YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN" imprinted below) would greatly assist our public awareness drive; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion endorses and will actively work for the issuance by the U.S. Postal Service of a POW/MIA stamp bearing the logo of the National League of POW/MIA Families; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Citizens Advisory Committee on Stamp Design.

**RES. 428** (Committee) — **Relations with the Repulic of China (Taiwan)**

WHEREAS, The Republic of China on Taiwan is a free and democratic country, with ideals and aspirations compatible with those of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of China is the sixth largest trading partner of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of China, with its extensive air and naval facilities, vital to the American military operations in the Far East, is a key link in the Free World's Pacific defense chain; and

WHEREAS, The establishement of full diplomatic and military relations between the Republic of China and the United States of America would foster cooperation between the Republic of China and the United States; promote American cultural, political, and economic interests; and maintain peace and stability in East Asia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion supports the immediate establishment of full diplomatic and military relations between the United States of America and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

**RES. 429** (Committee) — **Mainland China**

WHEREAS, The Peoples Republic of China is a Communist country with economic, political, and foreign policy objectives generally contrary to those of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Branch of the United States Government has attempted to use the relationship with the Peoples Republic of China to counter-balance the expansion of Soviet military power in Asia; and

WHEREAS, The United States Government has offered to sell military equipment to the Peoples Republic of China; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union and the Peoples Republic of China have entered into a series of discussions to improve relations between them; and

WHEREAS, Our Free World allies in Southeast Asia have expressed fears that the Peoples Republic of China could turn to aggression in the event that differences with the Soviet Union are resolved; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion urges the Executive Branch of the United States Government to use extreme caution in all relations with both the Peoples Republic of China and the Soviet Union and refrain from making any military equipment available to the Peoples Republic of China.

**RES. 430** (Committee) — **Military Sales to the Republic of China (Taiwan)**

WHEREAS, The Republic of China on Taiwan occupies a strategic location in the Far East, enabling its forces to deter air and naval movements between Soviet bases in Vladivostok and Cam Ranh Bay, thus assisting the United States in maintaining peace and stability in Asia; and

WHEREAS, The Chinese Communist regime on the Chinese mainland has never renounced the use of force in its efforts to subject Taiwan to Communism; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of China needs modern fighter aircraft and missiles to maintain its own defense and contribute to the Free World's defense strategy; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of China has requested to purchase, but has been denied, modern F-20 fighter aircraft and HARPOON anti-ship missiles; and

WHEREAS, The F-20 aircraft was originally designed for the Republic of China and is compatible with the F-5 series of aircraft currently in service with the Republic of China Air Force; and

WHEREAS, The United States desires to sell the F-20 to certain other foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, The United States has sold (or provided as aid) high-performance aircraft and missiles to our allies which face a lesser security threat than does the Republic of China; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of China maintains foreign exchange reserves in excess of U.S. $20 billion, with which advanced weapons can be purchased; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.(a) of the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8) states; "the United States will make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability", now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion supports the immediate sale of F-20 fighter aircraft, HARPOON anti-ship missiles, and other such necessary military hardware to the Republic of China (Taiwan).

**RES. 431** (Committee) — **U.S. Support for the Republic of Korea**

WHEREAS, The Republic of Korea is politically and militarily vital to the United States and to the defense and stability of the Pacific and Far East; and

WHEREAS, There are numerous treaties in force with the Republic of Korea concerning aviation, consular affairs, defense, economic and technical cooperation, education, finance, fisheries, maritime matters, trade and commerce, and the Mutual Defense Treaty, which was entered into force 17 November 1954; and

WHEREAS, North Korea has repeatedly renounced the use of military force and even proposed a nonaggression treaty with the Republic of Korea; however, its actions are the opposite of its proposals, in that North Korea still maintains an extremely large, modern military force capable of assuming offensive operations on short notice, as a means to obtain its goal of bringing the entire Korean Peninsula under Communist rule; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of Korea's proposal for "The Formula for National Reconciliation and Democratic Unification" of 22 January 1982, is still the most feasible, national and well-intentioned plan heretofore proposed; and

WHEREAS, North Korea's refusal to enter into meaningful dialogue concerning this peaceful reunification plan is based solely on its continued illusion that reunification may be accomplished only through use of its superior military power, of which it continues to boast; and

WHEREAS, The capability of North Korea to use military force against the Republic of Korea has been manifested by continual infiltration of North Korea agents into the Republic of Korea; the death of 16 Republic of Korea Government Officials in the bombing in Rangoon, Burma, in 1984; and the construction of many tunnels under the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), which provide the

capability of moving large contingents of military personnel and equipment into the Republic of Korea undetected, and

WHEREAS, North Korea has reorganized at least two Strike Corps with mechanized elements and redeployed them from their original northern areas of operations near the North Korea-USSR border to positions closer to the DMZ at the end of 1984. The redeployment was not detected earlier because North Korea forces moved at night as they similarly had done shortly before the Korean War in June 1950. North Korea has the potential to launch armed provocations against the Republic of Korea in a bid to sabotage the 1986 Asian Games and the 1988 Summer Olympics to be held in Seoul, and

WHEREAS, North Korea has substantially increased its military build-up during the past ten years by introducing Soviet-built Mig-23 fighters (which are more advanced than F4/F5E's) and by building their own T54 tanks (which are comparable to the M60 tank, of which the Republic of Korea has none in its inventory), and

WHEREAS, The presence of combat ready elements of the United States ground and air forces in the Republic of Korea serves as a real deterrent to North Korean aggression; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that the United States increase its military aid and assistance to the Republic of Korea and provide the Republic of Korea with modern state-of-the-art weapons and technology in order to safeguard freedom, sustain the Republic of Korea's development, and promote the cause of stability and peaceful development in the Pacific and Far East; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the United States provide for flexibility in its military strength in the Republic of Korea to respond to any military and/or political buildup by North Korea and not allow the United States capability to diminish.

**RES. 432** (Committee) — **North Korea's Acquisition of U.S.-Built Helicopters**

WHEREAS, North Korea's illegal purchase of 87 US-built Hughes 500MD Helicopters (the same type of helicopters used by Republic of Korea Forces and built in the Republic of Korea under license from Hughes Aircraft Company in recent years) poses a major threat to the security of the Republic of Korea and constitutes a decisive danger to both the Republic of Korea and U.S. forces should North Korea use them for either regular or unconventional warfare; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that the U.S. Government be urged to take stronger security measures to prevent further influx of Free World military equipment and state-of-the-art technology into North Korea.

**RES. 433** (Committee) — **POW/MIA Legislative Priorities**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has been the leader in the fight for an accounting of our MIAs and POWs; and

WHEREAS, It is important that everyone everywhere be informed about our gallant young men listed as MIA-POW; and

WHEREAS, Many Posts, County Committees, Districts, and Departments hold legislative breakfasts or dinners attended by many elected officials of various ranks as well as Legionnaires and Auxiliary members; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that Legislative Committees of Departments, Districts, Posts be urged to include as one of their legislative priorities, "a complete accounting of our MIAs and POWs and The American Legion will not rest until such accounting is completed."

**Received and Recorded Resolution**

**RES. 108(OH),** — existing policy **Res. 454,** 66th National Convention **Trade with North Vietnam Opposed**

**Resolutions Referred to the Standing Commission on Foreign Relations**

**RES. 332(CA) Philippines**
**RES. 333(CA) North China Marines**
**RES. 427** (Committee) — **Commending General Cheng**

**Rejected Resolutions**

**RES. 7(AZ) POW/MIAs**
**RES. 159(HAWAII) POW/MIAs**

## INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN DAVID S. LUSBY, District of Columbia: Mr. Chairman, this is the Report of the Inter-American Affairs Committee.

**Approved Resolutions**

**RES. 36** (VT) — as amended and consolidated with **Res. 353(VA) Inter-American Security**

WHEREAS, In 1823, President Monroe enunciated the Monroe Doctrine, announcing the closing of the Western Hemisphere to further colonization by European powers by stating that "we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety." For over a century, the Monroe Doctrine effectively prevented foreign domination of Latin America; and

WHEREAS, Domestic and foreign developments warrant reexamination of the Monroe Doctrine by the U.S. Government. Although U.S. objectives in Latin America remain unchanged, the means of achieving them must be adapted to modern circumstances; and

WHEREAS, The Congress has become increasingly assertive in foreign relations, generally restricting presidential initiatives. It seems unlikely that the Congress would approve unilateral U.S. application of the Monroe Doctrine, except in extreme circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Latin American nations regard unilateral U.S. application of the Monroe Doctrine as inappropriate in the modern area; however, adoption of the Rio Treaty in 1948, in effect, implemented a collective form of the Monroe Doctrine as hemispheric policy; and

WHEREAS, In the past four decades, the U.S. Government has increasingly followed a "Good Neighbor" policy toward Latin America, pursuing policies mutually beneficial to itself and its neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Marxist-Leninist totalitarian regimes in Cuba and Nicaragua, subservient to the Soviet Union, pose a continuing threat to Latin America; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion believes the U.S. Government should adopt the following policies toward Latin America:

(1) The United States has a vital national interest in helping our Latin American allies create stable, prosperous, free societies.

(2) The United States must be willing to devote the necessary resources to achieve that goal.

(3) Whenever it accords with U.S. interests, the United States should channel its efforts through multilateral means such as the Organization of American States and the Rio Treaty.

(4) If compelling circumstances dictate otherwise, the United States must take whatever unilateral actions are required to achieve its national security objectives.

and be it further

RESOLVED, That this nation must keep itself economically and militarily strong in order to carry out the above policies.

**RES. 200** (MD) — as amended and consolidated with **Res. 316(NY), 352(VA) Central America**

WHEREAS, For four centuries, Central America very largely was composed of non-democratic, feudal-like societies; large-scale economic, social and political injustices prevailed. Although the situation varied somewhat (for example, Costa Rica has been a vibrant democratic society for over four decades), generally underdeveloped conditions existed in most parts of Central America; and

WHEREAS, Following the Nicaraguan revolution in 1979 and its subsequent betrayal by the Sandinistas, the Soviet Union, acting through its Cuban and Nicaraguan surrogates, has attempted to spread revolution throughout the area by exploiting the existing underdeveloped conditions; and

WHEREAS, Since the military coup by progressive military officers in El Salvador in 1979, democratic evolution has been under way in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. To varying degrees, all the countries in Central America, except Nicaragua, have expressed a desire to become democratic, prosperous, peaceful societies. The goal is unattainable without U.S. encouragement, economic aid and military aid; and

WHEREAS, The late Senator Henry M. Jackson, along with some other members of Congress, recognized the importance of developing a long-term, bipartisan consensus to protect U.S. national security interests in Central America and promote democratic evolution. Senator Jackson urged the establishment of a bipartisan commission to examine U.S. Central American policy. Accordingly, President Reagan subsequently appointed a National Bipartisan Commission on Central America (NBCCA). In making his recommendations, Senator Jackson said, "We can no longer follow the familiar pattern of U.S. policy in Latin America: sporadic attention when we feel our interests threatened by coup or revolution, then abandonment and unconcern. Our policy must have a 30-to-50 year aid: effective help in building democracy, increased economic opportunity and greater respect for human rights."; and

WHEREAS, National Commander Keith Kreul testified before the NBCCA and urged the adoption of a "Marshall-type plan" for the area which would provide a long-term, comprehensive U.S. commitment to the promotion of democracy, economic growth and security; and

WHEREAS, The NBCCA reached a bipartisan consensus in January, 1984 and recommended a program very similar to that proposed by The American Legion. President Reagan subsequently approved the recommendations and forwarded them to the Congress as the Central American Democracy, Peace and Development Initiative (familiarly called the Jackson Plan in honor of the late Senator Jackson); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we fully support the Jackson Plan as approved by Congress in The International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-83) and urge the Congress to fully fund the Jackson Plan as a matter of vital national interest.

**Received and Recorded Resolutions**

**RES. 2**(AZ) existing policy, **Res. 102**, 66th National Convention **Nicaragua**

**RES. 105**(NC) existing policy, **Res. 102**, 66th National Convention **Nicaragua**

**RES. 176**(AR), existing policy, **Res. 102**, 66th National Convention **Nicaragua**

**RES. 354**(VA), existing policy, **Res. 357**, 66th National Convention **Brazil**

**Rejected Resolution**

**RES. 6**(AZ) **Monroe Doctrine**

## MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN EDMUND ZACHMAN, Ohio: Report of Middle Eastern Affairs Subcommittee.

No resolutions were submitted to the Subcommittee on Middle Eastern Affairs, however, the Subcommittee believes that the resolutions currently in effect provide a viable program for The American Legion in this vital region of the world.

This concludes my report.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SIMON: As a duly authorized Delegate from the Department of Vermont to this convention, I move the adoption of this report.

The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously, and the report was adopted.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: I will call on the National Adjutant for an announcement, before we invite Congressman Montgomery to the podium.

* * *

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Thank you, Commander. The 1985 Regional Tournament Champions of The American Legion Baseball Tournament as of Tuesday are as follows, and the winners are:

In Region I, Connecticut.
Region II, Virginia.
Region III, Puerto Rico.
Region IV, Woodward, Oklahoma.
Region V, Ulm, Minnesota.
Region VI, Omaha.
Region VII, Sacramento, California.
Region VIII, West Covina, California.

These eight will go on to Kokomo, Indiana for The American Legion World Series with the first game to be played Thursday, August 29.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Ladies and gentlemen, we are very pleased to have with us our next speaker, who has a long history of Public Service. He served 10 years in the Mississippi State Senate, and was elected to Congress in 1966. Last year he was re-elected to a 10th term. He has served nine terms on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and has been Chairman of that body since 1981.

In addition to his Legislative service, he is a Veteran of World

War II in the European Theater, and with the 31st Infantry Division during the Korean Conflict. In 1981, he was promoted to the rank of Major General in the National Guard.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome a man who shares a deep concern for the American Veteran, a fellow Legionnaire from T. C. Carter, Jr., Post No. 21 in Meridian, a great friend of The American Legion and veterans all over the world.

It is a pleasure to introduce you to, this morning, the Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, the Honorable G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery, from Mississippi.

**THE HONORABLE G. V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY**

**Chairman, House Committee on Veterans Affairs**

Thank you very much, Clarence, my fellow Legionnaires, Officers of The American Legion, thank you for giving the invitation.

It is a pleasure to be in New Orleans. I live right up the road, and I would like to maybe send you an invitation to come to my hometown. It is about 100 miles from here. The only thing I can give you, you have some tents and you have to get in the mess line, but it won't cost you a lot of money. You would have more money than what you have today.

Thank you for being the largest Veteran's organization in the United States, and also being the largest Veteran's organization in the world. And I certainly hope, Commander, that you do make your goal this year, the tremendous goals. And speaking as a fellow that works in Washington, the stronger you are back home, the better and easier it makes my job.

I am very proud that my Mississippi Legionnaires are here in force. Ralph Godwin who is very active in the national organization got me this cap this morning. I had forgotten mine. I left it in my hometown.

Also, to George Delivorias, who is a friend of ours, now the State Commander of Mississippi, American Legion group. We are very proud of Jim Dean, who is on the ladder, and we hope that he will have the opportunity to be National Commander. I know Jim Dean probably as well as anyone in this room, and he will make you an outstanding National Commander, and I do appreciate your just considering Jim Dean from Mississippi.

One other point that we would like to make, we have now implemented where there will be a state nursing home in our state. We had to go to the Mississippi Legislature this last winter and ask for $3 million to match Federal funds to get a State Veteran's Home.

Now most of you, 36 states in the nation, have a State Veteran's Home. We didn't have one in Mississippi, but The American Legion in Mississippi, plus some other veteran's organizations handled themselves well, and you know, it is hard to get money out of any Legislature. And on final passage, there was not a vote against, who wanted to put their signatures against the nursing home in Mississippi.

You have a strong staff in Washington, Bob Spanogle — you are not in Washington, but we enjoy your coming over to see us. Mylio Kraja, Robert Lyngh, and Phil Riggin, we all work together out there working for the veterans.

You will be hearing from Harry Walters, who is a very strong and fine administrator. I have enjoyed working with him in Washington. What I like about Harry, he stands up for the veterans, and he has a lot of knots on his head, but he will come forward and tell it like it is.

Roy Stone, I'm very sorry again that I missed the Southern Caucus. I wasn't quite sure what it had to do with me this morning, and I couldn't quite make it.

But to Gary Sammons, your Legislative Chairman, you have a good program, that which you present to us in Congress, your Legislative Program of The American Legion which is fair.

Now I would like to quote from a very great veteran who came before the Committee in Washington last fall and made this statement, and I quote, "Americans are a responsible people, and The American Legion is a responsible organization. We have not, and will not seek from the Government more than what we believe are the just dues of The American Legion men and women, who have answered the call of the elected Government to defend America's interests in the Armed Forces. What The American Legion wants for veterans is what is fair and just. We know that is what the Committee wants also. Working together, we believe the goals of fairness and justice can be achieved."

Now these eloquent words were delivered before the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs last September, and they were delivered by our own National Commander Clarence Bacon. Join me in an applause for Clarence Bacon. He is an outstanding National Commander.

Applause.

I know, for one reason, that he does get around. I've seen him everywhere. He has been to my homestate two or three times, and I led a delegation to Vietnam, to Laos, to Cambodia, and the Philippines last December, and we came back into a hotel in Manila, Philippines, and guess who was there to greet us — your National Commander, Clarence Bacon who was also in the Philippines. That was a good surprise, and it was a wonderful feeling to see that Clarence was over there. Not only is he going around and looking at the different Posts around the world and in this country, but I found that Clarence was also looking at our military.

Are we strong enough to deter the Soviet Union? And I want to thank you for your support of our military policies in Washington.

We need a strong military, as you know, to deter the Soviets. And it has worked for a number of years, and it will continue to work.

We made some changes in Washington. You would be glad to hear that this new Authorization Bill that will be effective in October, 1985 for 1986 is — we couldn't believe it. We had some military persons, both active and retired, they turned to the enemy; they were spies under our military laws. These people can only be given life imprisonment. In the new laws, it will come out before long in Congress, they will be given capital punishment. And that is what they deserve when they take advantage of this great country.

We have over three million Americans that are cleared for top secret. The best way we can check on these persons, to see that they are not selling our goods and take our secrets away, is by lie detector tests. And they are now saying, we can make random lie detector tests for Americans that are cleared for top secret classifications. That makes a lot of sense. Some people don't like it, but it ought to be done. We have got to stop these people from doing what they are doing.

Today, and I will try to be brief, but there are some things that I think I should say this morning that you ought to know about. We need your support. If you don't like what we say, then you ought to let me know. But we want to talk about some things of the 99th Congress, and what is left in this year and next year.

Now for veterans, we passed five bills and sent them to the Senate. These bills pertain to compensation, health care, education, training, housing and memorial affairs, across the board for veterans.

Now the Senate has only acted on one of these bills, and we think by the end of this session, they will act on all five bills.

Now our Committee in the House of Representatives are all working hard to protect veteran's benefits. But it is getting to be a

tougher job every year. But I believe we will continue to be successful.

After a long and sometimes frustrating battle, the House and Senate agreed on a budget on August 1, and it is not the strongest budget, but it is a budget. We do need a budget in the Congress of the United States. But it does treat veterans fairly, but it does say that over the next three years, we are going to have to make cuts of around $280 billion in the different programs, including veteran's programs.

The House and the Senate, we have recently passed the Appropriations Bill for the next fiscal year with funding levels that we hope will be adopted by the other body.

The American Legion will want to acknowledge, Mr. Commander, the great work of Bill Gray of Pennsylvania, Congressman Del Latta of Ohio on the Budget Committee. They really stood their ground in Congress protecting our programs. Congressman Vivalet of Texas on leave from my Veteran's Committee serving to the Budget Committee was our point man for veterans. And he insisted on the House's position in these budget conferences.

Chairman Eddie Boland of Massachusetts, Congressman Bill Green of New York of the Appropriations Subcommittee are handling the VA funding and deserve credit for what they have done for the veterans, not only in the Supplemental bill of '85, but in the VA Appropriations Bill of '86.

Let me point out very strongly, the House continues to send a strong message to the so-called budget experts, who want to take a whack at Veteran's benefits.

We will do what we can to bring Government spending under control, and reduce the deficit, but we will not stand by and see Veteran's benefits cut and other Government programs not take their fair share of the licks and cuts.

The House and Senate Budgets are as different as night and day.

In the Veteran's benefits, especially, the Senate Veteran's proposal cut $600 million out of the Veteran's Health Care Program for 1986.

The Senate presented an unworkable means test to get into a VA Hospital, and a user's fee on home loans at 3.8%, which would in effect have eliminated the home loan program.

Now none of those amendments were adopted.

Congress is not going to make substantial reductions in Veteran's health care. Recently, on the floor of the House, an amendment was offered to the HUD Independent Agencies Bill that would reduce health care by $180 million. It was an amendment that was offered less than a month ago. It was debated on for about five minutes. Then we had a voice vote. Then it was soundly defeated, in fact, I listened to the ayes, and I didn't hear many, so my point is, we are still strong in the Congress.

Cost-of-living adjustments. Our Committee in the House is calling for a DIC increase equal to inflation. This will be somewhere around 3.5 to 4% for compensation in DIC. It will be effective on December 1. Now this has been recommended by the budget, and the President has also supported this.

Let me mention on that, on the VA pension, that is tied into Social Security, that will be also a cost-of-living increase for pension.

The budget, now listen to me carefully, the budget has instructed me as Chairman of the House Veteran's Affairs Committee to find savings in veteran's programs of $1.15 billion in the next three years — $300 million in '86, 400 in '87, 450 in 1988. Can they be accomplished without cutting the current programs? I think it can be, and I would like to explain why I think we can do it.

Let me make it real clear. We will reject the Administration's proposed mean test for medical care which is too complex, it is too unfair. It is just not working.

As a compromise, my colleague, John Paul Hammerschmidt of Arkansas, a great friend of the Veteran, the Committee's ranking minority member, and I will propose major changes in the Administration's proposal that will, we believe, actually enhance health care programs for veterans.

Let me say this, that the VA Administrator has testified that existing eligibility system is unfair, and I agree with that statement.

We want to make certain that any Veteran who needs medical care from the VA, gets it. If you have got a service-connected disability or if you get a VA Pension, or if you just can't afford needy care, the VA would not turn you away.

A measure that makes this kind of commitment is what we need. And the question is, how do we do it?

Instead of a base income level of $15,000 a year, which has been recommended by the Administration, it should be raised to $25,000. No veterans up to this level of income would be required to show his inability to pay for health care.

Any veteran who is above the income level could, on a space available basis, be admitted to the hospital, provided the veteran agrees to make the same medical co-payment an individual is required to make for health care under Medicare.

We are talking about $476 for Fiscal '86.

Once this payment is made, no other payment will be required for a 12-month period.

Out-patient treatment would be provided. Unlike the Administration's proposal, no Veteran would be locked out of the system. All Veterans would have the opportunity to go to VA Hospitals.

Then, Mr. Chairman, we are on to savings. Rather than savings, the proposal would generate revenue from insurance companies that collect premiums from thousands of Veterans, using VA facilities. These companies do not pay for any care insured Veterans receive in VA military hospitals. The contract contains a clause that prohibits payment.

It is true that our Committee has not seen fit to enact third-party reimbursement or bill the insurance companies in the past, but for the current budget situation, I would still prefer to leave these things alone.

The House and Senate have agreed that we must do something. Given the choice of cutting the current programs or enacting legislation that would prohibit insurance companies from having these clauses in these contracts, then the choice is clear. Therefore, under the proposal, I have in mind, most of the savings would come from what is collected from insurance companies, with only a minor amount coming from the co-payment required of Veterans who have incomes above the $25,000 level.

What I have outlined would apply to non-service-connected Veterans, regardless of age. The plan is fair, it is easy to administer, and it doesn't jerk the rug out from under a Veteran who needs health care.

I want to require that the VA take care of the service-connected, the POW's, the World War I Veteran. The Veteran who has been exposed to Agent Orange, Veterans drawing pensions, and those with incomes of $25,000 or below. Then on a space-available basis, take care of those over the income level, and who are willing to make the co-payment.

It is a good deal, and I hope we can enact it in the way that we have attempted to outline it to you.

I think what I would propose to the Committee would enhance the Veteran's care program, and it would hopefully put an end to the Office of Management and Budget nickeling and diming the VA to death each year.

I might say that we have moved old David Stockman, and he won't be around to harass us anymore.

We are going to watch this new fellow, too.

Yes, we are going to push for legislation, and we need your help.

I will be blunt and honest with you today. If you don't stand with the House Committee as it works to find the savings that have been mandated, the Administration is going to implement its more limited means test, and I know you don't want that.

So I challenge The American Legion to rise up and make it be known that we will not stand by and see the VA health care system chipped away to nothing, which is exactly what our opponents have in mind. We are not going to let them do it.

Yes, we have our problems, and I'm sure that the Administrator who follows me, will talk about that medical care. But I don't care what type of medical care you have, there will be some problems. As a whole, we think we are doing an excellent job in our VA Hospitals, out-patient clinics, nursing homes, and if you have got complaints, bring them to us and we will try and correct them.

We had some successes in these first months of the 99th Congress. With your help, we turned back the notion of taxing disability compensation. That idea came up in conjunction with the President's Tax Simplification Package of tax reform. But Veterans across the nation as well as the Congress raised their voices and said — absolutely not.

And the idea was dropped. The disabled Veterans have really given enough.

The House has passed legislation that would safeguard against the Administration's proposal to consolidate the VA 58 Regional Offices into three locations. We know that that will not work. The legislation says, that we passed in the House, that at least one Regional Office will have to be in each state. We need your support, and I know you will back us up on that.

All in all, we think we are doing a pretty good job of holding the line against unwarranted and increased taxes on Veteran's programs. We are holding the line, because we have a pretty solid front.

The individual Veteran and the service organizations and the Congress and the Veteran's Administration, and I can tell you as far as the VA is concerned, we really don't have a better friend than the Administrator Walters.

I want to close with this thought. Now is not the time to rest on past successes. The future rests primarily in your hands. You can continue to be effective only if you remain active and vote.

You have to have strong Posts back in your different states. If you don't have those strong Posts, if you don't see Members of Congress, other programs are going to be in front of us, and we are going to lose our strong support there. So we need your local effort back home.

My philosophy is pretty simple, I'm for those segments of our country that deserve Federal benefits and the Veterans have served their country with honor. Thank you, and God bless you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you very much, Chairman Montgomery, and rest assured, that you can count on The American Legion in the future and for many many years to come.

I would like to say to the Delegates here, as I walked the Halls of Congress this year, and dropped in on Congressman Montgomery's office, unannounced on many occasions, he has always taken the time, and he has been readily accessible to this National Commander of The American Legion.

We have with us this morning representatives of several Veterans organizations, but before I introduce them to you, I would like to read a very special message.

## SOCIETY OF AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDERS

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: As we are all well aware, the relentless march of time has thinned the ranks of the Society of American Legion Founders. It is especially saddening to me that some of the founders had looked forward to this occasion with great anticipation, but is unable to be with us today. He is William J. Meade, President of the Society.

Bill Meade was a Delegate to the Paris Caucus, and although he is now in a nursing home in North Randolph, Massachusetts we can all be assured that his fighting spirit is with us today.

It was with that fighting spirit that he and his comrades of World War I came together to build a wartime Veterans organization dedicated to continued service to God and country. They accomplished their task well, and they left their mark on American history.

Bill prepared some remarks to be delivered to this Convention, and, on his behalf, I'd like to read them to you now, and Bill says:

"Commander Bacon, distinguished guests, and Legionnaires all, I bring you greetings from the Society of American Legion Founders, and our wishes for a very successful Convention.

"As President of the Founders, I had hoped to increase our membership, my problems can be an example of things today's Legion members should not do. I was furnished over 2,000 names of folks who had attended either the Paris or St. Louis Caucus and were entitled to be members of their Founders Society. A large number had asterisks before their names meaning they had passed on. Some had addresses unknown, a good number had 1919 after their name meaning there had been no contact since 1919. We finally got about 40 names of folks, still members of the Legion, and eligible to be Founders. I drafted a letter inviting them to join, I outlined the perks we enjoyed as members; we did not receive one reply, that was the end of the drive.

"There are over 20 million veterans out there that should be members of the Legion. Don't let them become 1919ers, or address unknown, or just an asterisk before their name.

"You have a splendid membership committee with a great amount of good material for a membership drive. There are over 16,000 Legion Posts. They have to use the material, with the help of their 2,500,000 members. Go get 'em, Legionnaires. Most Posts send out the same meeting notice every month. You don't have to open the envelope; and you know the contents. Change the format, make it interesting.

"A few ideas that brought results in an attempt to get members to read the notices. Tape a penny to the masthead, titled, 'A penny for your thoughts.' A fall meeting with some oats taped to the masthead, annoucing "Wild oats time is over." Come to the meeting with some new ideas for interesting meetings. Spraying the notices and envelopes with a strong perfume, this is bound to interest the women folks at home. When they are interested, the men will be also. The only complaint we had was from the post office on the smell. A rubber stamp to stamp the upper left-hand corner of the envelope "The Lonely Hearts Club" was an attention-getter. Have interesting meetings. Speakers from District Attorneys Offices, and Attorney Generals, sports figures, police and firemen, radio and T.V. newsmen.

"Run membership campaigns between teams of members and officers with prizes for the winners. Get everyone to put on their thinking caps, study successful organization and copy.

"Some years ago the Founders had 10,000 snappy looking Pledge of Allegiance bookmarks printed and they went fast, especially to teachers and school children. Two years ago an officer had 2,000 printed and they were going fast 'til someone discovered there were only 48 stars on the flag and they didn't contain the words, 'under God.' We had to scrub the distribution. When the originals were printed they were correct. We have been unable to get the plan going since.

"Recently a high school student refused to stand for the Pledge and a town in Massachusetts voted down a resolution to open the town meeting with the Pledge. My thoughts are that the time is

ripe for civic organizations like the Jaycees, Rotarys, Lions, P.T.A., Masons, K of C, Legion, Chambers of Commerce, banks and similar groups get together, and get pledge cards or similar items printed to be distributed to school children and teachers to instill a love of flag and country before they are indoctrinated or misguided by liberal faculty members and rag tag groups that always seem to have media attention for all their demonstrations against anything and everything America and Americans stand for, and seem to spend more time out of school than in it.

"After 14 months in France, I came home on a captured German war vessel, I will never forget sailing into New York harbor, a sea of flags flying from ships, wharfs, and buildings and people waving Old Glory. That Grand Lady Liberty on Bedloe now Liberty Island, with her inscription that cries out, 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shores, send these the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door.'

"If only all Americans could enjoy this entry they would gladly say: 'I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty, and justice, for all.'

"God bless and guide America and Americans, The American Legion and the Society of Founders of The American Legion. Thank God for America."

## PRESENTATION OF FOUNDERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: I would like at this time to present four Founders we have with us: Claude Payne of Texas.

Vahan Dukmejian of New York.

We have Harry Foster, California, I believe.

And we have George Bentley, Minnesota.

On behalf of all of the Founders, I would call on George Bentley to come up to the podium and say a few words. George, we are very pleased to have you.

### GEORGE BENTLEY

### American Legion Founder

I couldn't help but ask the Commander for a chance to give a little insight as to what happened.

Last Saturday, we had the Founder's meeting, and there were only four of us here from all over the United States. As of today, at our latest figures, we show there are just 30 of us left in the U.S.A.

I am a member of the Paris Caucus of March, 1919, and of course, I have been a continuous Member ever since that time. It wasn't too much of a meeting, but we four were there.

We expect to see you in Cincinnati next year. God bless the Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you again, gentlemen, and Founders. And really let's all give the Founders of The American Legion a round of applause.

## ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE VETERANS IN CANADA

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Our next guest has been a long-time friend of The American Legion. He represents an organization whose foundation consists of men who fought in some of history's most important battles, and they continue today to serve their nation under fellow Veterans in the same valiant manner.

During World War II, this man served five and a half years in the European Theater with the Seaforth Highlanders of the Canadian Army. He joined them, the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada when he joined the Sir Winston Churchill Unit No. 3 in 1984.

He has a long list of offices held and accomplishments made while serving his fellow Veterans. But it is especially noteworthy that he is a 1968 recipient of The American Legion's Amity Award, and he has received his organization's highest honor, the Award of Merit.

Ladies and gentlemen, Dominion President of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, Bud Bianchini.

### ALBERT BIANCHINI, DOMINION PRESIDENT

### Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and distinguished guests, Delegates and friends, how wonderful to see those Founders here this morning, and there are so few of them left, but how sad so many have gone.

It is a thrill to be down here visiting you here in the Deep South, and especially here in New Orleans.

Many of us over the years have read the books of fiction and non-fiction and have been awed overwhelmingly by the history of its romatic and controversial past.

You who are used to these situations, accept them as commonplace, but to the average Canadian, we are fascinated to be actually standing in the area to which the song, The Battle of New Orleans, refers, and to which the stories and movies describe so vividly.

We think of the Civil War, the wounds inflicted by brother on brother, the agonizing over who was right, the healing of wounds, and the slow merging of the North and South into what was to become the most powerful nation in the world. History is history.

But I cannot reflect on the fact that but had The American Legion existed then, as they do today, then they may have had a quicker and more congenial plan to unite all of those soldiers than the politicians of that era.

How unfortunate that those gallant soldiers did not have the benefits of the Veterans' organizations behind them as we do today.

Is it any wonder that all of our associations are so aggressive towards demanding fair and sound legislation for our veterans and their dependents, concerning the many sacrifices our brothers and sisters made for our respective countries.

As all of you, we are proud of our contribution to the victims, the sick and the disabled, the communities of which we are a part, and to the developments which we belong. We thank God for permitting so many of us to participate in the promotion of God and welfare of our respective nations, and for being able to assist those less fortunate than ourselves.

Caring is a key word in any Veteran's organization, and as long as we care, and as long as we serve, we will continue to show that the pleges that we accepted, and the oaths we repeated were not in vain.

I would like to mention that our organization is officially one that is 145 years old this year, having been founded in 1840, making us the oldest Veteran's association, at least in Canada.

On behalf of Mavis, my lady and her secretary-treasurer Bonnie Barnett, I thank you for your kind invitation to join with you at this Convention, and certainly for the fine welcome and most generous hospitality tendered to us since our arrival.

And further, on behalf of all the officers, board members and provisional commanders of all the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, may I extend our heartfelt best wishes to all of you for continuing success in all of your endeavors.

**PRESENTATION**

DOMINION PRESIDENT BIANCHINI: Now from our great Veteran's association in Canada, I would like to present this token of appreciation to National Commander Bacon on behalf of The American Legion, the nation's capital, Ottawa, Canada.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you very very much, Mr. Bianchini.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Another representative from a fellow organization to our north is with us today. He has been a member of the Highland Creek Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion since 1946, and has served at all levels of command.

After serving as Vice President since 1980, he was elected First Vice President last year. He served overseas in World War II with the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps.

Ladies and gentlemen, please give a warm welcome to a good friend, the Dominion First Vice President of the Royal Canadian Legion, Tony Stacey.

**A. (TONY) STACEY, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

**The Royal Canadian Legion**

Thank you, Commander Bacon. Commander Bacon, Delegates, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for the kind invitation to attend your Convention and the privilege of addressing you.

It is my great honor to bring you the sincere greetings of the Dominion President Steve Dunston, and the many officers and members of the Royal Canadian Legion, and wish you every success in obtaining positive results to your discussions and deliberations.

Our great organizations have a common purpose, to ensure that those that served their country in time of war on land, in the air, and on the high seas will be forever honored; that those who need assistance will receive it; and those who paid the supreme sacrifice will be remembered, and the dependents of those who gave so much for their country will not be neglected.

Many Americans served with Canadian units, and Canadians with American units. We were comrades in arms fighting for the same cause. Even though the most we have in common is our contribution, that even though the most generous Veteran's organizations can never repay the sacrifices that were made.

The Royal Canadian Legion appreciates the continuing efforts of The American Legion to have your Government enact legislation which would provide hospital and domiciliary care and medical service to those qualified members of Canada who served in World War I or World War II, and have been citizens of the United States for at least 10 years.

At this time, we wish to seek your support in respect to another situation which confronts Canadian citizens who are disabled pensioners as a result of service in the U.S. Forces, and residents in Canada.

Any Veteran in this category who needs treatment is required to travel to the United States if he or she wants the Veteran's Administration to accept the responsibility for treatment.

In the case of an American citizen, who has service disability and resides in Canada, and requires treatment for a pension disability, he can obtain that from the Veterans Affairs Administration on a reciprocal basis.

While your procedural change is radically different from ours, we believe there is merit for joint action by your organization to promote an amendment to the reciprocal agreement between our two countries, such that would allow Canadian citizens to be treated for their pension conditions in Canada without the requirement of having them return to the United States. If you feel there is something that can be done to modify this situation, I hope you will let us know.

The Royal Canadian Legion is in its Diamond Jubilee Year, and we have 600,000 members and affiliates, and 80,000 in the Ladies Auxiliary, located in France, and some 1,800 cities, towns and villages across the country.

This represents a strong grass roots organization of considerable significance. Perhaps our most progressive step in the recent years has been to invite our sons and daughters to join with us in preserving the Legion's aims and objects and continue the work of the Legion. They were first introduced as associate non-voting members some 12 years ago. However, much to our pride, their numbers increased until now we have over 165,000 enrolled. Currently we have increased their rights and privileges until today, our sons and daughters are proud of the same rights and privileges and responsibilities as our Veteran members.

In fact, many hold executive positions at Branch, Zone and District Command levels. And the time is not too distant when they will assume control of our organization, and we hope that peace will continue, and our sons and daughters will ensure that to the very last one, every Veteran and dependent receives the benefits they so richly deserve.

Finally, you will agree with me that experiences we are subject to in time of war are unique, and join with me in the future generations in all of our efforts. I thank you, Commander.

**PRESENTATION**

VICE PRESIDENT STACEY: Comrade Bacon, on behalf of our organization, please accept this token of our appreciation.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: On behalf of our organization, let me return a gift to you, thank you for the lasting friendship that we have had.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Ladies and gentlemen, our next guest makes his fifth visit to The American Legion National Convention. He represents hundreds of thousands of Veterans from a country that has been a long-time friend and ally of the United States.

He is the former Political Vice Minister for National Defense of the Republic of China on Taiwan, and has held many other important defense positions with his Government. In his current capacity, he has important responsibilities to the economic well-being of the Republic of China and her military veterans.

Ladies and gentlemen, please extend an especially warm welcome to our good friend and Chairman of the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen, General Cheng Wei-Yuan.

**GENERAL CHENG WEI-YUAN, CHAIRMAN**

**Vocation Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen Republic of China**

. . . Following his address in Chinese, his interpreter presented these remarks:

National Commander Bacon, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It is my great honor to attend the Opening Ceremony of the 67th Annual National Convention of The American Legion at the historic City of New Orleans. On behalf of all the Veterans of the Republic of China, I wish to extend our sincere congratulations on this occasion to American Veterans, who have come from all over the world, as delegates to this Convention.

Many years ago, an astute politician said that a nation had no

permanent friends, only permanent interests. It is very unfortunate that this obvious truism has been perverted in modern times to justify what would otherwise appear to be irrational actions in the methods that governments conduct their foreign relations. What some foreign policy experts have neglected in their political analysis is the fact that basic governmental philosophy controls the way nations react to one another.

The United States and its Free World allies are now in a strategic contest with the Soviet Union, which many would call the "enemy." The Soviet Union and the United States should be the best of friends. They are both large countries, with large populations. Each has natural resources and products which the other desires and which could be traded in the normal course of commerce, in the same manner that the United States carries on trade with Canada, Great Britain, or Japan.

What brings the United States and the Soviet Union into conflict is the very fact that their governmental philosophies are diametrically opposed to one another. The United States and its allies believe in personal freedom, national integrity, stability, and prosperity under a free enterprise system. The Soviet's communist model formulates class struggle, communist expansion, violent revolution under the guise of "national liberation," and a state control of the economy.

When then President Carter broke diplomatic relations with the Republic of China to establish an embassy in Peiping, we had difficulty in understanding his rationality. The Republic of China was established in 1911 by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, based on Abraham Lincoln's principles: "government of the people, by the people, and for the people." The Chinese Communists established their regime and continue to maintain it based on the principles of Marx, Lenin, and Stalin.

We believe that the United States should recognize that its true interests will be served by establishing a close governmental working relationship with the Republic of China, which shares American goals and aspirations. We also believe that the United States must be extremely careful in its relationships with the Chinese Communist regime, which shares the same goals and aspirations as does the Communist regime in Moscow.

In all our relations with the United States, whether it be in the social, economic, political, or strategic military level, the Republic of China intends to act as a responsible partner. We are convinced that cooperation between our two countries is in our best interests. The Republic of China has much to offer the United States in these times of uncertainty, and we are hopeful that our relationships will continue to improve in the future.

Over the past few years, we have seen national Veteran's organizations play a greater role in international affairs. We are especially proud that the relationship between VACRS and The American Legion has continuously grown closer. Your support and encouragement have been most welcome and show that people to people diplomacy is an effective method of promoting peace, freedom, and stability.

Before closing, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the resolutions adopted this morning by The American Legion in support of the Republic of China in Taiwan, as well as the constant strong support and staunch friendship you gave us in the past many years.

I would extend my congratulations and best wishes for a most successful Convention. And thank you very much.

**PRESENTATION**

In order to show our sincere appreciation and respect, on behalf of the President of the Republic of China, General Cheng would like to make a couple of presentations.

The first one I am honored to read this citation:

"Declaration Certificate: Mr. Commander Bacon, National Commander, The American Legion, has distinguished himself by offering his contributions to the development of the friendly ties between the Veteran's organizations of the United States of America and the Republic of China. In appreciation for his meritorious services, National Commander Bacon is accordingly, under Article 7 of the VACRS is presented the Order of the Cloud and Banner with Cravet by the Government of the Republic of China." This is signed by President and the Minister of National Defense.

Now another one, on behalf of the General himself. The General has a silver plate to present to the National Commander Bacon:

"Presented to Mr. Clarence M. Bacon, National Commander, The American Legion, in appreciation of his outstanding contributions to the enhancement of friendship and cooperation between The American Legion and the Vocational Assistance Commission for Retired Servicemen, Republic of China, August 27, 1985."

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you very much, General Cheng.

We are honored to have you visit with us today, and look forward to many more visits with you in the future.

The next guest to join me on the platform also represents a Veteran's organization from one of America's allies in the Far East, which our country is indeed fortunate to count among its friends.

His organization — the Korean Veterans Association — has maintained and promoted the warm friendship between our two countries.

Ladies and gentlemen, would you please join with me in a warm welcome for the President of the Korean Veterans Association, General Seok-Chu Paik.

**GENERAL SEOK-CHU PAIK, ROKA, RETIRED**

**President, Korean Veterans Association**

. . . General Paik delivered the following message through his interpreter.

National Commander Bacon, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen!

On the occasion of the 67th National Convention of The American Legion, I am highly honored today to have an opportunity to deliver a message of greetings to you on behalf of 4 million members of the Korean Veterans Association. In particular, I am personally very pleased to meet all of you for the first time since I took the office of President of the Korean Veterans Association last February.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to you for your unsparing support and effort so far extended for the defense of the Republic of Korea, and to convey the warm friendship and greetings to all the members of the Korean Veterans Association.

As you well know, Korea and the United States have maintained traditional friendly ties for over 100 years. These ties, forged in blood during the Korean and Vietnam Wars are further strengthened with the presence of over 40,000 of America's finest young men and women who stand guard at the edge of freedom together today with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Korea preserving peace and stability not only on the Korean peninsula but in North East Asia as well.

Dear friends, it is well known, the Korean people were never driven to despair by our nation's total destruction in the War, rather we have been striving with national unity to build a peaceful and bountiful nation by the onset of the 21st century. I believe you are well aware that Korea under the situation of technical

cessation of hostilities, not under termination of hostilities, has spent more than 30 years simultaneously rebuilding the nation and strengthening the national defense, coping with many hardships and difficulties.

The North Korean communist clique did not favorably answer our continued overtures for the South-North dialogue until they had finished their preparations for another war. Still they are eager to find the best timing to use their military muscle. However, peace-loving Korea has been exerting sincere efforts to peacefully solve the South-North problems. We will continue our overtures until permanent peace settles on the Korean peninsula and thus contribute to stability in the Pacific and Northeast Asia Regions.

Your strenous support and cooperation for peace, freedom and prosperity in this area always gives courage and hope to the Korean people, in their daily confrontation with North Korea, the most outrageous political bandit in the world. I earnestly hope you will give us your unwavering support to our sincere efforts to keep peace as you did in the past.

In closing, I pledge to exert every effort to maintain and enhance the existing friendly ties between our two organizations, forged by my predecessors, and to leave this legacy for the coming generations to inherit. I hope your Convention will prove a productive and rewarding one, and wish everlasting progress to your great organization. God bless you and your families.

**PRESENTATION**

I would like to present this plaque to Commander Bacon which reads.

"To Mr. Clarence M. Bacon, National Commander of The American Legion in grateful recognition of his dedicated contributions to the support of the national security of the Republic of Korea and to the promotion of friendly relations relating to our two organizations this 27th day of August, 1985, New Orleans, this is signed by General Seok-Chu Paik, retired, President of the Korean Veterans Association."

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you, General Paik.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Fellow Legionnaires, our next speaker this morning is the head of the largest independent agency in the Federal Government. He is a former collegiate athlete, and was graduated from West Point with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He was Commissioned an infantry officer, attended Airborne and Ranger Schools, and served with the 25th Infantry Division.

Prior to becoming Chief of the Veterans Administration in 1983, he was Assistant Secretary to the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

He has addressed Legion audiences many times, and he has consistently been a cooperative friend in Washington, D.C., because he is acutely aware of the needs of the Veteran, and of the rights to which they are entitled.

I would like to say this for Harry Walters, too, that he has always had an open-door policy, he was always available. And when I first visited Harry, after becoming National Commander, I found out he did not have a flag on his wall from The American Legion. He now has a flag, and we are very pleased to have him as a Member of The American Legion.

As a great supporter for Veteran's benefits and programs, I present the Honorable Harry Walters.

**THE HONORABLE HARRY N. WALTERS**

**Administrator, Veterans Affairs**

Thank you, Commander, for your warm introduction. And fellow Legionnaires, members of the ladies Auxiliary, distinguished guests, members of the U.S. Armed Forces, employees of the Veterans Administration, ladies and gentlemen, Commander, wherever you are, due respect to you, Commander, I have been very good to the Commander during his elected year of commanding The American Legion, and I want you to know that. The one thing I have done to show that respect, is not take a bet on the Army-Navy football game last year, because Army really beat the Navy, as you might recall.

This year, Mr. Commander, I am taking the bet. And I am willing to take the National Commander's five bucks.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: You have a burden to carry this year, and I know you are carrying the burden of work for the Veterans Administration, but the Army is going to beat Navy.

ADMINISTRATOR WALTERS: The score of the game should be recorded in late November, and I will take my compensation by check, so I can have it framed.

I would like to give a special thanks to Roy Stone, who chairs the Southern Caucus who invited me to breakfast this morning. I thought breakfast was free, it cost me $12 in fines. I was still happy to be there, Roy, and thank you for inviting me.

Before I get into my prepared text, I would like to share with you a story that Senator Al Simpson from Wyoming tells about a wealthy businessman in Wyoming who made $10 million in just three short years. He had everything that life could give him except the fact that he didn't have a mistress, and so he decided after his third year with all this money, he would take a mistress.

Sure enough, he had a very good relationship with this marvelous lady for two years, and finally after that two years, he turned over and asked her the magic question, "If I lost all my money, would you still love me?"

The lady very thoughtfully contemplated her answer, looked down at her feet, took three or four minutes, and with great loving affection turned and look into his eyes and said, "If you lost every nickel you ever had, I would still love you. Miss you, but love you."

I'm not so sure that Administrators of the VA are like that when it comes to submitting budgets to the Congress of the United States.

Now, first of all I would like to thank you for inviting me to join in these proceedings. It 's a great honor to be with you again this year for your Annual Convention, and I know you will have a successful meeting because you share a common pride in our country and an uncommon willingness to work for your community and to sacrifice for America's ideals. I know also that you are going to have a very good time, because after being with you at your 66th National Convention in Salt Lake City, I know these occasions can be an awful lot of fun, especially here in New Orleans in the midst of Dixieland, terrific Cajun food, great entertainment, intriguing French architecture and exciting history, not to mention Bourbon Street.

Well, your Convention should be special because Legionnaires are special. I have been aware of the Legion's many accomplishments for much of my life. As a Legionnaire and as a product of The American Legion baseball, I have been long aware of your great dedication, your national policies and your projects and your neighborly improvement to your hometowns and your communities, but it has only been in the last few years that I have come to fully comprehend your great strength, your effectiveness in the true value of The American Legion in the conduct of veteran's affairs.

The American Legion harnesses the enormous energy of our citizenry and directs it toward worthwhile objectives. You compliment, you refine and you improve the operations of the VA. You advocate, you propose, you expose and oppose basic policies and

courses of action. You inject your public thought and you engender public response.

The American Legion provides the focus for community creativity. You are an entity of activity, good guidance and public authority. Your programs are for people of all ages and interests and all needs.

You educate, you mobilize and lead, in short, you get things done, and you are one of America's great organizations and I am personally proud to call myself a Legionnaire.

And I have sacrificed, courage and service are valid criteria for attention. No groups for veterans in this country is more deserving than the Legion, for you serve a special need, one that can be met by no other group, and you serve it very well.

As your Veteran's advocate in the Federal Government, I am grateful for the help of friends like your National Commander, Clarence Bacon, your National Adjutant, Bob Spanogle, your Executive Director, Mylio Kraja, and your other National Officers, and your Auxiliary President, Helen Gardner. They assist me immensely in the conduct of this nation's Veteran's affairs.

Now, I am proud to be your advocate, and my VA associates join me in my strong sense of appreciation for the cooperation and pleasant relations we have enjoyed for almost three years.

We have accomplished a great deal in the last few years as we worked together to help assure the delivery of high quality health care and benefits to America's Veterans.

Now, we have not always done everything right, nor will we ever do everything right, but we will continue to prove true but only with your advice and only with your help.

The Veteran's Administration is the child of the Veteran's service organizations of this country. But remember parents instruct, they guide, they support, they cajole and they discipline their children to achieve the results they seek. They do not succeed by beating the child to death.

I believe that the open and honest communications that we have had during the last three years, the health dialogue on key issues, have caused both policy and law makers alike to view Veterans as a potent force which is immensely important in Washington, D.C., and good for this country. Never forget that America is Number 1, thanks to our Veterans, and as Dr. Ernie Burgess said when he accepted the ONEC award for development of the Seattle Port which allows our amputee Veterans to run, he strengthened and modified our slogan when he said, "America is Number 1, thanks to our Veterans."

Now, being a Veteran encompasses many things. It's service to our country, a sense of duty and obligation, loyalty to our flag, professing both courage and honor, and those are the virtues that made America great.

To Veterans the vision of the founding fathers is still a vital force because you believe in enlarging the meaning of freedom and giving it new expressions every day. Knowing freedom is hard won, can be preserved only by continuous efforts, you are America's watchmen on the wall.

Now, as Legionnaires, you have certain goals and certain attentions regarding the improvement of our programs and services. As individuals, each of you has an opinion about what the VA is doing and about what it should be doing. I respect your opinions. I respect your attentions and I respect your goals. I encourage your suggestions because I want to see new ideas and new procedures pumped into the system of benefits and health care in the VA. Veterans and their dependents and survivors need your help and our agency needs your help to meet the challenges that are going to change with the times.

Let me give you a recent example of how the VA and service organizations work together with great success. As most of you know, the numbers crunchers in Washington and the Department of Treasury were looking at every program in an attempt to accomplish their task of simplifying America's tax code. One proposed version of the tax simplification legislation included a provision to tax Veteran's disability compensation.

Like you I was appalled and so the service organizations, the VA and the Department of Defense and certain key members of Congress, Chairman Sonny Montgomery of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and John Paul Hammerschmidt, the ranking member of that Committee, being two of them, joined together to educate those who would influence this decision. Well we made a formidable team and we got our message across to most of Washington's decisionmakers.

Now, I never doubted that President Reagan would come out squarely on the side of Veterans when faced with the decision because he always has, but we wanted to make sure that those around him understood that such a provision was totally unfair and should not even be considered.

Working together the service organizations, the VA and the DLD got a lot of people's attention and we educated them to the point where even David Stockman, who had not always been on our side, as you well know, solidly supported us. It took us four years to get him educated, and then he resigned.

The President didn't disappoint us. In fact, he came out on television that Veteran's disability compensation would not be taxed. he said, and I quote, "Veterans have already paid their dues."

Now, this is just one example of how we have been successful through teamwork and, in this regard, I would like to pause just for a moment to acknowledge your leaders and your staff and salute them for the magnificent job they are doing for all of us. Thank you.

Now, one of the most significant elements in solving challenges in the future will be to arm ourselves with facts. Now we can work with facts, but rumors and innuendos and feelings can cause great confusion and they can lead to bitter disappointments, and yes, they can lead even to disaster. Unfortunately getting the facts out is a lot easier said than done, especially in Washington where so many people are working on individual agendas.

Let's take the 1986 budget before it was finally approved by Congress as an example. Along with the President's budget submission, which was down in black and white, there were numerous alternative solutions under examination. Some proposals would have cut the VA, some would have added to the budget we submitted, but the point is there were so many variations that even the staffers on Capital Hill couldn't keep track of them all. Yet news of the budget was always painfully pessimistic and it was consistently bleak. and Veterans and VA employees grew more and more concerned without facts before any approval.

Well, let me give you some facts. The Department of Medicine and Surgeries' budget in the 1986 budget is being appropriated by the appropriating committees, as we speak. It is a $500 million increase over the 1985 budget, and that is in the year of the freeze, and that is good news for the VA.

Now, let me pause for a moment about budgets, if I might. It seems to me that as I went through my third budget cycle as Administrator of the VA that I did some deja vu and it related back to my personal life, and it suddenly dawned on me that I had been married for 23 years to a lovely woman whom I love very much and think she loves me, and we have raised two children and they are now out in the young adult community hopefully being good citizens. The one thing consistently clear in these 23 years is that every year my wife put her plan on the table and every year I put my budget next to it, and my budget has yet to meet her plan. Let you who has a different kind of family cast the first stone. So, the news is, of course, our plans are greater than our budget, but yet

that is what Robert Browning said in the poem when he said, "ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp or what is a heaven for?"

Now, remember with me for a moment when a Florida newspaper did an expose on the cardiac surgery unit in Miami Hospital in Florida. The paper lacked the facts. That didn't seem to matter to them nor did it matter when a complete investigation was conducted by the VA or when the House held hearings. The experts supported our VA programs to include Dr. Debakey, the leading cardiac surgeon in the world out of Houston. None of this mattered to the paper, but it should have. It should have mattered because the alarm the paper caused cardiac surgery was temporarily terminated in the Miami Hospital and Veterans were needlessly upset. None of this mattered to the newspaper. It never relented, and when the House Veteran's Affairs Subcommittee Hearings didn't agree with the paper's conclusions, the paper called the Hearings a sham. The real sham was the paper's scared story, and a real tragedy may be written about sometime in the future when some Veteran who needs heart surgery refuses to come to the VA care because he has been scared. Now, I hope such a tragic thing never happens, but chances are it will and chances are some Veterans will be afraid to come to us for care and that will be worse than a sham, that will be a real shame. It does Veterans a great disservice, it undermines their confidence with the scare stories and it ignores the facts.

I want you to do something about it. I want you to help me to get out the truth. I want you to help me find better ways to relate to all Veterans, and I know for a fact that you are beginning to set the record straight on what the Veterans Administration is doing.

While along with asking out agency to continue seeking new and better ways to treat patients, I obviously need to have better communications with those whom we are privileged to serve, and I want us to improve our methods of administering benefits and upgrading our services. We have to be more efficient. We have to be more efficient in our functions and in all of our operations. We must constantly strive to expand the opportunities and help fulfill the expectations and potential of that special segment of the population that we are privileged to serve, and I want us to continue being the finest serving America's finest, so I will need your help.

I know you are busy. You are busy planning activities, working on legislation, you are training your people, and you are developing resolutions, but we are busy too, we are busy seeking better methods, better performance, and better results, and we intend to stay busy, and as far ahead as any of us can see we pray there will be no more wars and we pray there will be no new war Veterans, no more young men and women returning home with injuries and problems and disabilities that so many of you are familiar with.

Even if there are no more wars, we will still stay busy caring for a Veteran population that is reaching a time in life when they will need medical assistance as never before, and to meet the challenge we are going to develop a plan and are developing a plan for modernizing all the VA operations and will be considering various efficient alternatives as we develop that plan.

We are pursuing an agency-wide processing and telecommunications modernization goal which will provide better service to Veterans by the increased use of modern technology.

I am going to make an overstatement. The VA is where Sears and Roebuck was 25 years ago. If you had a credit card in Miami, it may or may not work in San Francisco until the paper file is airexpressed to San Francisco to prove your credit is good and your account is on target. Now, that is an overstatement of our deficiencies, but, in fact, we are far behind the privrte sector in the delivery of information to our decision-makers who are making decisions for you and your Veterans that you are representing, and that ability to bring a timely answer to a Veteran's concerns is something the VA must do and I need your support.

Now, we are building on a mission and goals which the department and I put together when I first came to the VA, and you can be sure the Veteran's Administration activity and a strong commitment to the needs of Veterans will continue and will continue undiminished. The fact we are accomplishing our mission is probably our best assurance that we will continue to receive the research that we need to care for our nation's Veterans.

We will never neglect our responsibilities but we must anticipate changing requirements, and design effective programs to meet those current and future needs. Be assured that the VA is determined to provide the various services, and I don't care what the criteria are, because Veterans deserve the best. You have always given your best.

Now, as a private citizen and as a public official, I appreciate this brief opportunity to recognize the great service that you have given and you continue to give to your country. Your deed will never be forgotten. The American people will always remember the price you paid for the liberty we all enjoy, and those who make the greatest sacrifice will always remain very special in our memories.

I have never closed a VA speech since I have been in the VA without reminding my audience that we have brought a slogan to the VA just two and a half years ago. It's a good slogan. It's truthful and makes a lot of sense, it comes in the form of a bumper sticker which requires the driver behind you who needed to say a prayer or honk his horn. It's just a simple statement and I have been told I am corny and I have been told that I am a trite, but nobody has called me stupid for reminding people that America is Number 1 thanks to you. God bless you, God bless America.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Harry Walters, on behalf of the 2.7 million members, we want to thank you very much for being a staunch supporter and advocate of America's Veterans. Thank you so very much.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The chair at this time recognizes Mr. Frank Kelley of Georgia, Chairman of the National Convention on Economics, for the purpose of making a report.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS

**Frank Kelley (Georgia), Chairman**

Seventy-eight (78) members of the Committee on Economics met at 9:00 A.M., August 25, in the French Market, Hyatt Regency Hotel, and agreed upon the following report which is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

Frank Kelley (Georgia) was unanimously elected Chairman, and Joseph Holzka (New York) was elected Secretary of the Convention Economics Committee.

Your Convention Economics Committee was divided into two parts: Employment and Veterans Preference, and Other Economic Matters. Henry Field (South Carolina) was elected Chairman of the Committee on Employment and Veterans Preference and Jerome Roach (Missouri) was elected Secretary. James McMahon (Maine) and Bernard E. Blink (Iowa) were elected Chairman and Secretary, respectively, of the Committee on Other Economic Matters.

Sixty-nine (69) resolutions were considered by your Committee. In response to a call from the National Adjutant, an Economic Screening Committee met in the Buena Vista Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Friday, August 23, the Screening Committee

was composed of members of the Economic Commission and its affiliated committees and was as follows: Frank A. Kelley (GA), Chairman, Henry J. Field (SC), James A. McMahon (MA), Jerome Roach (MO), and L.A. Santillanes (NM). A report of the analysis of the Screening Committee, with recommendations, was presented to the Convention Committee for consideration.

The fine work performed by the Economics Screening Committee in analyzing and grouping the resolutions was of great assistance to the Convention Committee and is greatly appreciated. This Committee recommends that an Economics Screening Committee be appointed to serve the 68th Annual National Convention on Economics.

In considering resolutions presented, the Committee took the position that the subject matter should be germane to veterans. It was the desire of the Committee to avoid putting The American Legion on record in fields unrelated to Veteran's affairs.

Of the 69 resolutions considered, 66 were referred by the Resolutions Assignment Committee from 17 departments and three originated in the Convention Economics Committee.

The following action was taken on resolutions by the Convention Committee:

Approved, or approved as amended: 23
Consolidated with Resolutions approved: 37
Referred to Standing Economics Commission: 7
Received and Recorded: none
Rejected: 2

A report of the seven resolutions referred to the Standing Economics Commission will be reported to the National Executive Committee and to the Adjutants of the concerned departments, and will be contained in the National Adjutant's report to the National Executive Committee.

The subject matter of the two resolutions recommended for rejection was determined by your Convention Committee as not being germane to The American Legion's programs, contrary to established American Legion policy, or not for the best interests of Veterans.

## EMPLOYMENT AND VETERANS PREFERENCE

Forty-four members of the Committee on Employment and Veterans Preference met in joint session with the Committee on Other Economic Matters and considered 63 resolutions, of which 35 were consolidated into 20 which are being submitted for approval; seven were referred to the Standing Economics Commission; and one was recommended for rejection.

## APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Eight resolutions considered by your Committee concerned full funding for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training and for positions of local Veterans employment representatives and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program specialists. Resolution No. 128 (IL), as amended, became the master resolution, and consolidated therewith are Resolutions No. 45 (MA), No. 57 (NE), No. 95 (UT), No. 172 (AR), No. 232 (OK), No. 385 (TX), and No. 401 (MI).

**RES. 128** (IL) as amended — **Full funding for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training**

WHEREAS, PL 96-466 established the Office of Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training to coordinate and direct all veterans employment/training activities within the Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, In order to fully implement those pertinent sections of the title 38, USC, as regard veterans employment matters, the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training must be fully funded; and

WHEREAS, Underfunding of the Office of Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training will have a negative impact on the employment/training delivery services to all veterans, especially those of the Vietnam era; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that the office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training, U.S. Department of Labor, be fully funded to carry out its mission as prescribed by law and regulations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress and the Department of Labor to fund the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program and local veterans employment representatives programs for fiscal year 1986 and future years at levels not less than the staffing levels for fiscal 1985.

**RES. 235** (OK) as amended and consolidated with **Res. 94 (UT) Federal Contract Compliance Workshops**

WHEREAS, Section 2012 of title 38, USC requires Federal contractors to take affirmative action in the hiring and advancement of Vietnam era and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, Contractors and eligible veterans are often unaware of this provision and its complaint mechanism; and

WHEREAS, Nationwide workshops on contract compliance programs, with emphasis on this section 2012 would greatly facilitate the enforcement of this requirement by informing contractors and eligible veterans; and

WHEREAS, Such workshops should be sponsored jointly by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training of the U.S. Department of Labor; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion seek to have the Office of Federal Contract Compliance and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training, both in the U.S. Department of Labor, hold regularly scheduled, nationwide Contract Compliance Program Workshops that would inform both contractors and eligible veterans of their respective obligations and entitlements under section 2012 of title 38, USC.

Three resolutions ask for sufficient funding for a viable delivery system for veterans employment in the state Job Service System. It is recommended that Res. 311 (NY) Seek Increase in Staff and Support Resources for Employment Services, as amended, be approved, with Res. No. 287 (MN) and Res. No. 303 (GA) consolidated therewith.

**RES. 311** (NY) as amended and consolidated with **Res. 287 (MN) and Res. 303 (GA) Seek Increase in Staff and Support Resources for Employment Services**

WHEREAS, The Employment Service has been in existence over 50 years providing cost free job assistance to veterans; and

WHEREAS, One of the primary missions of the Employment Service is to provide eligible veterans with effective and timely priority service as required by law and regulations; and

WHEREAS, The Employment Service can only provide such priority service to veterans with sufficient personnel and support resources; and

WHEREAS, The demand for all Employment Service programs has outpaced its available resources, having a negative impact on veterans services; and

WHEREAS, The Employment Service may face further losses in staff and support resources; losses which would curtail current and additional services to veterans; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that

The American Legion support a strong and responsive central Employment Service system of staff and support resources that would be responsive to the employment needs of eligible veterans.

Of three resolutions asking for special programs for the employment needs of older veterans, it is recommended that Res. No. 173 (AR), as amended, be approved as the master resolution, with resolutions numbered 93 (UT) and 238 (OK) consolidated therewith:

**RES. 173** (AR) as amended and consolidated with **Res. 93 (UT) and 238 (OK) Employment Training Programs for Older Veterans**

WHEREAS, Older veterans are experiencing unemployment and under-employment problems of significant proportions nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Congress in enacting the Job Training Partnership Act, providing, at Title IV-C, a national veterans program, did not take into consideration the needs of older veterans; and

WHEREAS, Older generations of veterans are also in need of employment/training programs that address their economic needs and reflect their years of economic contributions and talents; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion urge Congress to specifically provide for older veterans in need of employment/training assistance in all proposed federally funded training programs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Labor, through the office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training, design and implement special employment and training programs for older veterans.

RES. No. 338 (WI) Full Enforcement of Affirmative Action for Eligible Veterans Required of Federal Contractors, is recommended for approval, as amended, with Res. No. 49(MA) consolidated therewith.

**RES. 338** (WI) as amended and consolidated with **Res. 49(MA) Full Enforcement of Affirmative Action for Eligible Veterans Required of Federal Contractors**

WHEREAS, Section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, requires that any private contractor or subcontractor who has a government contract for the procurement of personal property and nonpersonal service of $10,000 or more shall take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam era; and

WHEREAS, This federal statute further requires contractors to list "immediately" with the local Job Service office all of its suitable employment openings; and

WHEREAS, Enforcement of this requirement is vested in the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs of the Department of Labor, which has not, in any meaningful and substantive way, enforced the above provisions; and

WHEREAS, This disregard of the above provisions by both the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs and private contractors has denied qualified veterans employment opportunities within the private sector; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs and the office of the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Employment and Training, U.S. Department of Labor, be required to fully enforce the provisions of section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, which are intended to help eligible veterans to find employment with contractors having federal contracts.

At this time I would like Henry Field to give the next portion of the report, please.

. . . Committee Chairman on Employment and Veterans Preference continued the report as follows:

Res. No. 88 (UT) Require the Department of Labor to Maintain Veterans Priority in the "Validity Generalization" System for Job Referral Purposes, is recommended for approval.

**RES. 88** (UT) — **Require the Department of Labor to Maintain Veterans Priority in the "Validity Generalization" System for Job Referral Purposes**

WHEREAS, Section 2002 of title 38, United States Code, and accompanying regulations, provide that eligible veterans be referred to jobs on a priority basis through local Job Service officials; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Labor has funded and provided operating guidelines for placement procedures to a number of state Job Service offices under a procedure known as the "Validity Generalization" system; and

WHEREAS, This system includes occupational testing wherein numerical scores are used to determine priority applicant referral without the required regard to veterans status; and

WHEREAS, Such numerical ranking, without the required veterans preference, is contrary to established law and regulations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion call upon the Department of Labor to amend the "Validity Generalization" system with respect to occupational testing, to maintain veterans preference, pursuant to law and regulation, for all Job Service applicants.

Five resolutions seek legislation to amend the Job Training Partnership act to widen eligiblity and participation of veterans. It is recommended that Res. No. 162 (NM) be approved, with the following consolidated therewith: Res. No. 90 (UT); Res. No. 175 (AR); Res. No. 228 (OK); and Res. No. 387 (TX).

**RES. 162** (NM) as amended and consolidated with **Res. 90 (UT), Res. 175 (AR), Res. 228 (OK), Res. 387 (TX) Veterans Employment Programs in the Job Training Partnership Act**

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States enacted legislation creating the Job Training Partnership Act to provide employment/training services to eligible persons; and

WHEREAS, Section 2003 (6) and 2009 of Chapter 41, Title 38, U.S. Code, provide all national programs under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Labor shall be administered by the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training to ensure services; and

WHEREAS, The JTPA allocated funds to the respective states to carry out provisions of the Act; and

WHEREAS, The Act does not require the states or the Service Delivery Area managers to identify veterans similar to the identification of others receiving services under the Act; and

WHEREAS, The Act does not require the Service Delivery Areas to implement special programs to meet the needs of eligible veterans; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, to seek legislation to: (1) amend the Job Training Partnership Act to require each recipient of JPTA funds to identify veterans and to submit reports on services to veterans similar to reports submitted on other categories of individuals; and (2) direct each Service Delivery Area or recipient of JPTA funds to coordinate their program planning with the State Director of the Veteran's Employment and Training Service, U.S. Department of Labor, and to provide special programs to meet the training and employment needs of eligible veterans.

It is recommended that Res. No. 58 (NE) Criteria for Assignment of Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERS) to

Job Service Offices, as amended, be approved, with Res. No. 174 (AR) consolidated therewith.

**RES. 58** (NE) as amended and consolidated with **Res. 174 (AR) Criteria for Assignment of Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERS) to Job Service Offices**

WHEREAS, PL 92-450 provided that, except as may be determined by the Secretary of Labor based on a demonstrated lack of need, there shall be assigned, by the administrative head of the State Job Service, one or more employees on the staffs of the local Job Service offices, whose services shall be fully devoted to discharging the duties prescribed for the veterans employment representatives; and

WHEREAS, Under the provisions of this section, the Secretary of Labor established the criteria for the assignment of one or more full-time local veterans employment representatives (LVERS) at 1,000 veteran applicants available during the past 12-month period preceding the determination date of need and/or 6,000 total veterans' population served; and

WHEREAS, Recent changes, notably Vol. 49, No. 63, Friday, March 30, 1984, Rules and Regulations of the Federal Register of that date, define the requirement of a full-time LVER being 1,000 new or renewal veterans and other eligible applicants during the most recent twelve-month report period, with no reference to veterans' population served; and

WHEREAS, The limitation in such criterion for assignment of LVERs limits the number of LVERs to an unrealistic total; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion urge the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service to establish the criteria for the assignment of one or more full-time local veterans employment representatives (LVERs) at 1,000 veteran applicants available during the past 12-month period preceding the determination date of need and/or 6,000 total veterans population in the local office administrative area, or both.

Res. No. 305 (GA) Support a Pre-Separation Briefing of Active Service Personnel on Employment is recommended for approval.

**RES. 305** (GA) **Support a Pre-Separation Briefing of Active Service Personnel on Employment**

WHEREAS, The Department of Labor, through its office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training, and in cooperation with the Department of Defense, has instituted a pre-separation briefing as a pilot project; and

WHEREAS, The objective of the program is to develop a uniform approach for providing employment information to military personnel eligible for separation from active duty that will enable them to evaluate their experience and training in the light of available employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes such briefing should include and emphasize military service as an acceptable career choice; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion supports such projects which will provide employment information to active service personnel to enable them to make effective employment choices; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion support the pre-separation briefing program of the Department of Labor and the Department of Defense and its objective of enabling active service personnel to make suitable employment choices.

It is recommended that Res. No. 229 (OK) Adequate Funding for Title IV-C of the Job Training Partnership Act, as amended, be approved, with Res. No. 337 (WI) consolidated therewith.

**RES. 229** (OK) as amended and consolidated with **Res. 337 (WI) Adequate Funding for Title IV-C of the Job Training Partnership Act**

WHEREAS, The Job Training Partnership Act was enacted to prepare veterans, youths, unskilled adults and other for jobs in the labor market; and

WHEREAS, Under only Title IV-C are veterans a specific target group; and

WHEREAS, Funds provided under Title IV-C are entirely inadquate to address the pressing employment/training needs of veterans of all eras; and

WHEREAS, Other titles of the Job Training Partnership Act do not provide preferential treatment for eligible veterans; and

WHEREAS, The conditions of inadquate funding for veterans programs and failure to identify veterans in other Job Training Partnership Act programs prevented the Job Training Partnership Act program from adquately addressing the employment needs of the Nation's veterans; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion urge Congress to increase funding for veterans employment/training programs under Title IV-C of the Job Training Partnership Act to a level sufficient to address the employment/training needs of eligible veterans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seek legislation to provide for preferential treatment to veterans in other programs authorized under the Job Training Partnership Act.

Five resolutions concern legislation to amend the Emergency Veterans Job Training Act. It is recommended that Res. No. 272 (WA), as amended, be approved as the master resolution, with the following consolidated therewith: Res. No. 169 (AR); Res. No. 227 (OK); Res. No. 341 (WI); and Res. No. 386 (TX).

**RES. 272** (WA) as amended and consolidated with **Res. 169 (AR), Res. 227 (OK), Res. 341 (WI), Res. 386 (TX) Extension and Adjustment of Emergency Veterans Job Training Act**

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the Emergency Veterans Job Training Program (PL 98-77) to address the disproportionate unemployment and underemployment rate of Korean, Vetinam era and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, This two-year job program completely expired in late 1985, with tens of thousands of eligible veterans already certified for the program, but with many unplaced; and

WHEREAS, Legislation and regulations that established the program did not provide sufficient opportunity for maximum participation by eligible veterans; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion seek to continue the Emergency Veterans Job Training Program (PL 98-77) at least three years beyond its scheduled termination date; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion seek legislation to amend the Act to provide the greatest amount of participation by eligible veterans, including the reduction of the requirements of 15 weeks of unemployment of the 20 weeks preceding application to five weeks of unemployment.

It is recommended that Res. No. 48 (MA) Continuation of the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit Program be approved, with Res. No. 167 (AR) and Res. No. 231 (OK) consolidated therewith.

**RES. 48** (MA) as amended and consolidated with **Res. 167 (AR) and Res. 231 (OK) Continuation of the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit Program**

WHEREAS, The Revenue Act of 1981 authorized the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit program to provide tax credits to employers hiring certain enumerated groups; and

WHEREAS, One such group is comprised of Vietnam era veterans, many of whom have benefitted by obtaining employment and training under this program; and

WHEREAS, Continuation of Targeted Jobs Tax Credit will enable Vietnam era veterans the opportunity to gain economic independence; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion support legislation that will extend the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit for at least three additional years beyond the current expiration date.

Five resolutions concern the Wagner-Peyser Act. It is recommended that Res. No. 384 (TX), as amended, be approved as the master resolution, with the following consolidated therewith: Res. No. 92 (UT); Res. No. 168 (AR); Res. No. 234 (OK); and Res. No. 339 (WI).

**RES. 384** (TX) as amended and consolidated with **Res. 92 (UT), Res. 168 (AR), Res. 234 (OK), Res. 339 (WI) Oppose any Change in the Wagner-Peyser Act having Adverse Affect on Veterans**

WHEREAS, Congress, in the passage of the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933, provided, in part, for the creation of the United States Employment Services; and

WHEREAS, The Act directly benefits veterans, who are to receive priority in the employment services provided under the Act; and

WHEREAS, Proposed amendments to the Act may cause harm to veterans services; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion oppose any changes in the Wagner-Peyser Act that may adversely affect veterans.

Of the two resolutions concerning unemployment compensation for ex-service personnel, it is recommended that Res. No. 170 (AR), as amended, be approved, with Res. No. 304 (GA) consolidated therewith:

**RES. 170** (AR) as amended and consolidated with **Res. 304 (GA) Seeks Legislation to make Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service Personnel Equivalent to State Law for Civilian Employees**

WHEREAS, PL 96-364, while reinstating unemployment compensation for personnel leaving active military service, contained some provisions that discriminate against such ex-service personnel; and

WHEREAS, Persons who have voluntarily served their country in the military should not be discriminated against if they do not reenlist for service but decide to return to the civilian job market, and should be able to receive unemployment compensation on the same basis as civilian workers while they look for work; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion seek legislation to amend the federal law on unemployment compensation for ex-service personnel (UCX) to provide that such compensation shall be based on state law in the state in which the ex-service personnel makes application.

It is recommended that Res. No. 86 (UT) Promotion of The Legion's "Jobs for Veterans Program" as amended, be approved, with Res. No. 236 (OK) consolidated therewith:

**RES. 86** (UT), as amended and consolidated with **Res. 236 (OK) Promotion of the Legion's "Jobs for Veterans Program"**

WHEREAS, The American Legion initiated a national "Jobs for Veterans" Program in mid-1970 through post and department participation in veteran job fairs, information days, Vet-A-Thons and other like programs; and

WHEREAS, All posts and departments are encouraged to appoint active Employment Chairmen to direct such programs and to disseminate helpful economic pamphlets, brochures and manuals; and

WHEREAS, The success of the "Jobs for Veterans" program depends on the active level of participation by posts and departments working in concert with state and local officials and addressing the needs of veterans at the local levels; and

WHEREAS, This cooperative arrangement may manifest itself in mutually beneficial way to include committees, task forces, and involvement in federal job and job training programs; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion urge all posts and departments to actively promote the "Jobs for Veterans" program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion take an active role in federal job and job training programs to ensure that veterans receive their rightful place and representation on all state and local job and job training committees and councils.

It is recommended that the following resolution be approved:

**RES. 302** (GA) **Designation of the Second Full Week in March of Each Year as "National Employ the Older Worker Week"**

WHEREAS, The American Legion for a number of years has concerned itself with the difficulty encountered by the older worker, inasmuch as many of this group are veterans; and

WHEREAS, The practice of discrimination in employment because of age for otherwise qualified persons is contrary to the American principles of liberty and equality of opportunity to all citizens; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion since 1950 has promoted annually a successful program to focus public attention on the advantage of employing older people, especially veterans, under which the second full week in March is designated as "Employ the Older Worker Week" and citations are presented to employers who do not discriminate against older workers; and

WHEREAS, Department participation and interest of the Legion, employers and the public in the program has increased each year for the past two decades, and it has been recognized throughout the Nation, and by the United States Congress, as a meaningful and significant program to combat age discrimination in employment; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion petition Congress of the United States to adopt a Joint Resolution requesting the President to issue a proclamation (1) designating the second full week in March of each year as "National Employ the Older Worker Week," and (2) calling upon employer and employee organizations, other organizations concerned with employment, and the citizens of the United States in general to observe such a week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs designed to bring about the elimination of discrimination in employment because of age.

Chairman Frank Kelley continued the report as follows:

Three resolutions concern promotion of the authority for noncompetitive hiring of veterans with 30% disability. It is recommended that Res. No. 340 (WI), as amended, be adopted as the master resolution, with Res. No. 87 (UT) and Res. No. 230 (OK) consolidated therewith.

**RES. 340** (WI) as amended and consolidated with **Res. 87 (UT) and Res. 230 (OK) Promotion of the Special Hiring**

**Authority for 30% Disabled Veterans by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management**

WHEREAS, The 30% disabled veterans hiring programs codified in USC 3312 is designed to allow federal agencies to hire disabled veterans without competitive examinations, which may lead to career appointments; and

WHEREAS, This special authority is discretionary and not mandatory on federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, Federal agencies have never fully embraced or utilized this program, thus denying many qualified disabled veterans the opportunity for federal employment; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that the U.S. Office of Personnel Management be urged to fully support and promote the use of the special hiring authority for veterans with 30% disability.

**Res. No. 328** (CA) Support for Veterans Preference in Federal Employment, as amended, is recommended for adoption.

**Res. 328** (CA) as amended **Support for Veterans Preference in Federal Employment**

WHEREAS, A grateful nation has, following each war, indicated its thanks to those who bore the battle by providing certain rights and benefits, one of which has been a small advantage when seeking federal employment and in retention of that employment; and

WHEREAS, Absence from the highly competitive job market creates an unfair and unequal burden on veterans, upon completion of their military service, in competing with their nonveteran peers, which this preference in federal employment is intended to partly overcome; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion strongly support veterans preference in federal employment as provided by a grateful nation and oppose any effort to reduce this preference.

On the three resolutions on contracting out of certain federal jobs, it is recommended that Res. No. 22 (ND) Oppose Contracting out of those Federal Jobs Reserved for Veterans by Law, as amended, be adopted, with Res. No. 46 (MA) and Res. No. 273 (WA) consolidated therewith.

**Res. 22** (ND) as amended and consolidated with **Res. 46 (MA) and Res. 273 (WA) Oppose Contracting out of those Federal Jobs Reserved for Veterans by Law**

WHEREAS, Title 5, United States Code, 3310, provides that the positions of guards, elevator operators, messengers and custodians in federal agencies are restricted to veterans preference eligibles; and

WHEREAS, Those positions have often been contracted out to private contractors, thus denying a preference eligible the opportunity to compete for these positions; and

WHEREAS, The federal government intends to increase contracting out these services to private contractors, thus circumventing the intent of the above provisions; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion oppose contracting out of those positions as guards, elevator operators, messengers and custodians restricted to veterans preference eligibles as provided in title 5, United States Code.

**Res. No. 423** (Economic Committee) Promotion and use by Federal Agencies of the Veterans Readjustment Appointments (VRA) Authority is recommended for adoption.

**Res. No. 423** (Economic Committee) Promotion and use by **Federal Agencies of the Veterans Readjustment Appointments (VRA) Authority**

WHEREAS, The Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA) is a special hiring program in the federal government for veterans of the Vietnam era, established by Executive Order in 1970 and subsequently codified by PL 96-420 (5 USC 2014 (b)(3)); and

WHEREAS, Through the use of this authority over 180,000 Vietnam era veterans have been hired by the federal government, with nearly 85% being converted to career appointments; and

WHEREAS, Since use of this authority is not mandatory, but discretionary with federal agencies, agencies have uneven hiring records, not being fully aware of the program and/or are resistant to its use; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that the U.S. Office of Personnel Management be urged to fully support and promote the use of the speical hiring program for Vietnam era veterans, the Veterans Readjustment Appointments (VRA) by all federal agencies.

**Rejected Resolution**

**Res. 132** (IL) **Military Retirement System**

**REFERRED RESOLUTIONS**

**Res. 89** (UT) **Veterans Employment and Training Service**

**Res. 163** (NM) **Veterans Employment and Training Service**

**Res. 171** (AR) **The Veterans Employment and Training Service**

**Res. 226** (OK) **Veterans Employment and Training Service**

**Res. 233** (OK) **Establish in Law the Position of Regional Director of Veterans Employment and Training Service**

**Res. 237** (OK) **Violation of Office of Personnel Management Rules and Regulations in Filling Temporary Appointments**

**Res. 402** (MI) **Establish by Law the Position of Regional Director of Veterans Employment and Training Service**

Thirty-four members of the Committee on Other Economic Matters met in joint session with the Comittee on Employment and Veterans Preference and considered six resolutions, of which five were consolidated into three resolutions which are being submitted for approval, and one was recommended for rejection.

**APPROVED RESOLUTIONS**

Three resolutions concerned home loans to veterans. Res. No. 197 (MD), as amended, is recommended for adoption, with Res. No. 286 (MN) and Res. No. 327 (CA) consolidated therewith.

**Res. 197** (MD) as amended and consolidated with **Res. 286 (MN) and Res. 327 (CA) Support of a Home Loan Program in the Veterans Administration and in the Various States**

WHEREAS, The VA home loan program, as a benefit available to veterans who served their country honorably, has provided over 11 million veterans with the opportunity to own their own homes; and

WHEREAS, Because of changing economic conditions and the very volatile nature of the real estate market, many hundreds of thousands of Vietnam era veterans have been unable to purchase their first home; and

WHEREAS, The home loan program has operated successfully under the Veterans Administration since 1944, and has acted as a model for programs in the states to help veterans buy their own homes; and

WHEREAS, From time to time initiatives are made in the home

loan program that would cause harm to the program or would otherwise dilute the intent of the home loan program, both in the VA and in the various states with home loan programs for veterans; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion support all legislation that will have a positive impact on the VA home loan program, while opposing all initiatives that would be detrimental; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion oppose any attempt to remove the home loan program from the Veterans Administration; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion lend its efforts to encourage and support programs in the states to help veterans buy their own homes.

**Res. 422** (Convention Committee) **American Legion Support for United States Savings Bonds**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long promoted the United States Savings Bonds program; and

WHEREAS, United States Savings Bonds have long provided a safe opportunity for systematic investments, with a fair return, and an attractive federal income tax deferral, along with state and local income tax exemption; and

WHEREAS, Through Congressional action, U.S. Savings Bonds are now attractive as an investment, competitive with other savings opportunities; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion support the U.S. Savings Bonds program, and that its individual and group efforts be used to assist in effecting the success of this program.

**Res. 424** (Convention Committee) **Full Staff and Funding for the Veterans Office of the Small Business Administration**

WHEREAS, the Veterans Office of the Small Business Administration, a permanent office by order of the Administrator, is to advise the Administrator on agency programs and policies that affect veterans, to provide technical guidance, and conduct veterans outreach efforts; and

WHEREAS, Such responsibilities cannot be accomplished unless adquate funding and staffing levels are maintained; and

WHEREAS, Reduction of funding and/or staffing levels of the Veterans Office would seriously jeopardize the efficiency and effectiveness of that office; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion urge the Small Business Administration to fully fund and staff its Veterans Office so it can accomplish its mission.

**REJECTED RESOLUTION**

**Res. 225** (OK) **Default Home Loan**

Mr. Commander, that concludes my report and I move for its adoption.

The motion was seconded and the Economic Report was adopted.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: One of the first lessons learned by returning veterans of World War I was that, in many cases, their jobs had been forfeited as a result of their service.

Among the founding principles of The American Legion has been a prime regard for insuring veterans have an economically stable place in American society, and an opportunity to be productive for themselves, their families, and for their country.

The effort has been a continous one, consisting of monitoring jobs programs, working for veterans preference in job hiring, and with job counseling.

One comforting fact is that we know there are businesses in America who believe that hiring veterans is good for business, and good for the veteran. To recognize these organizations, we have our employer of the year awards for businesses which have achieved outstanding records in hiring veterans.

I am pleased to recognize two such organizations as 1984 Employers of the Year.

The award is given in two categories: one for companies employing more than 200 workers, and the other for companies employing fewer than 200. Each is nominated at the post level, advances through Department competition, and then competes with other Department finalists at the National level.

This year, the award in the under 200 category goes to Molycorp, Inc., of Washington, Pennsylvania. Of their 146 employees, 64.4% are veterans.

This year, the award in the over 200 category also goes to a Pennsylvania firm, Owens Illinois, Inc., Television Products Division, of Pittston, Pennsylvania. From a total work force of 938 employees, 409 are veterans.

Ladies and gentlemen, let's welcome to the platform representatives of our winning firms.

From Molycorp, Inc., Mr. John A. Burson, Personnel Director, and from Owens-Illinois, Inc., Television Products Division, the Industrial Relations Manager, Mr. Jack Shank.

Mr. Burson and Mr. Shank, these awards represent the best wishes and high esteem of The American Legion. Let me read them for our Delegates.

"The American Legion National Award Outstanding Employer of the Year 1984 presented to Molycorp, Incorporated, Washington, Pennsylvania, for an exceptional record in the employment of veterans, presented at the 67th Annual National Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26-28, 1985."

Congratulations to you, sir.

MR. BURSON: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The next award reads the same way and this is presented to Mr. Shank.

**MR. JACK SHANK**

**Industrial Relations Manager**
**Owens-Illinois, Inc., Television Products Division**

Mr. Commander, I am honored on behalf of Owens-Illinois to accept this award and the recognition and prestige it represents. I would like to thank everyone who played a role in the selection as Employer of the Year, particularly Plains, Pennsylvania, Post 558 and Bill Horan of our local Employment Security Office for nominating Owens-Illinois and the National Economic Commission.

I am accompanied today by two other representatives who are back here, Bob Reynolds who is Direction Manager and he is representing the Plant Manager. The second representative is Mary Reynolds, who has been my Employment Manager for the last five years and it is through Mary's direct recruiting efforts over the past five years that we able to be here today.

Owens-Illinois operates 100 manufacturing facilities throughout the United States, and as a corporation, we have placed ourselves to the program of assuring the quality of employment. The affirmative action we are taking includes compliance with the Vietnam Era Readjustment Act of 1974 and affirmative action

regulations for disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam era. I must add, however, it is not our pledge to affirmative action programs or federal regulations that motivates our veteran hiring. In most instances the veteran brings us more disciplined and developed background and character and training, making a veteran a more prudent choice in making employment decisions.

Once again, thanks to all of you for making this award possible and also to Commander Bacon for allowing us to participate in your 67th National Convention. Thank you.

**JOHN A. BURSON**

**Personnel Director, Molycorp, Inc.**

Commander Bacon, Delegates and friends. As a veteran of both World War II and the Korean Conflict and as a Legionnaire, I am most appreciative of having been accorded the opportunity to participate in hiring veterans who in our experience bring to the job all of the qualifications and capabilities that we look for in our employees. The fact they are veterans is icing on the cake, perhaps, but more to the point, it speaks for the enthusiasm and the can-do attitude that they express in carrying out their assigned duties.

The American Legion, ever in the forefront in working for veterans and humanitarian interests, may, as Commander Bacon has indicated, take pleasure in making these awards, but I assure you, that speaking for Molycorp, the pleasure is ours, and we thank you all for choosing Molycorp to receive this award, and certainly the Washington, Pennsylvania office of the Pennsylvania State Job Service for nominating us. Again, thank you very much.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: One of the bonds that holds this country together is sharing and passing down our heritage and one of the ways we have done this is through strong family ties within The American Legion.

The Sons of The American Legion have just concluded their 14th Annual Convention here in New Orleans and once again they have a new National Commander.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to present to you now, the newly elected National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, Mr. Royce J. Doucet Squadron 315 of Galliano, Louisiana.

**ROYCE J. DOUCET**

**Squadron 315, Galliano, Louisiana**
**National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion**

Good morning to everyone. National Commander Bacon, Adjutant Spanogle, distinguished guests, Delegates and Officers of the 67th Annual Convention of The American Legion and guests. It is my pleasure to address you this morning as National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, and I personally want to thank The American Legion for the support they have given us in our programs throughout the years.

In the coming year the Sons of The American Legion will work for the goals, principles and programs of The American Legion, and hopefully with the cooperation of The American Legion, the Auxiliary, the Junior Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion working as a family with the concept of partners in service. To unify our family concept we will re-evaluate our priorities to enhance the future growth of our programs, especially to cater to the various age groups within the Sons of The American Legion.

Over the past few years we have had an increase in membership and now our program is at its highest level. Our rehabilitation program is at its highest level at this time also, and our National Commander's project Make-A-Wish has contributed over $36 thousand dollars, and these are all Sons of The American Legion sponsored activities.

In the area of public awareness of Sons of The American Legion has increased as we continue to work in making our community, our state and our nation a better place to live. We are also going to encourage our National and Detatchment Officers to participate in The American Legion Extension Institute, and this program will better educate our officers in the years to come in the areas of programs for The American Legion.

We also continue to work in putting flags back into the classrooms where they belong, and this is another area of our patriotic devotion and obligation to our future.

Finally we will work with our Committees in a massive campaign to promote our Five Star and Ten ideal Programs, programs of the Sons of The American Legion to increase our knowledge, leadership and dedication to The American Legion and its programs, and also aiding our communities, our state and our nation to be a better place to live.

I am really looking forward to the year I have coming up, and I ask you, members of The American Legion, to dedicate yourselves to the Sons of The American Legion. We need to work as a family. We are relatives and dependents of Legionnaires and we are on your side.

In closing I want to thank you at this time for allowing me to speak before you. If you fellows have any questions feel free to contact myself or our officers and we will be more than glad to help you out. Let's help the Sons of The American Legion help The American Legion. Thank you very much.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The Chair recognizes Mr. Walton D. Griffin of Tennessee, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Finance, for the purpose of making a report.

**REPORT OF CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**Walton D. Griffin (Tennessee) Chairman**

Forty-four members of your Committee met at 9:00 a.m. on August 25, 1985.

Paul M. Allen (MN), National Finance Director opened the meeting as temporary Chairman and announced that nominations were in order for Chairman and Secretary. Elected were Walton D. Griffin (TN), Chairman and Anthony J. Minei (NY), Secretary by unanimous vote.

The Chairman recognized National Treasurer, Webber LaGrange (IN) for a report. Mr. LaGrange informed the committee the financial status of the organization is very sound with the average interest rates on our investments in the 10 percent range, and that a dues increase is not needed at this time.

Daniel S. Wheeler (IN), Publisher/Editor-in-Chief of The American Legion Magazine gave a report on the Magazine. He told the committee that the Magazine is now carefully screening all advertisements to improve overall quality, and that every effort is being made to increase the general advertising base. he also gave a report on the financial operation.

The Certified Audit, which was distributed to each committee member, was reviewed by the Chairman, who was also pleased to inform the committee that our 1984 surplus was $2,756,258. Upon a motion from W. Calvitt Bradwell (SC) and seconded by H. E.

(Red) Thibault (NE), the Audit Report was unanimously approved.

It was moved by Frank R. Kelley (MA) and seconded by Jesse Strong (ID) that the per capita dues for 1986 be set at $5.50, which is the same as this year. This motion was unanimously approved.

There were no resolutions submitted to the Committee.

Mr. Commander, this is our report and I would move its adoption, sir.

. . . The motion was seconded and the finance report was adopted.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Often in our society we find it difficult to acknowledge that everything is not perfect, that it's not all we would wish it to be.

To help us bring some of these special injustices to light, America's founders created the First Amendment, the right to freedom of the press.

Today the news media fill many roles, not just reporting the news, but exposing crimes of a most horrible nature. In December of last year Life Magazine published a special report entitled "The Cruelest Crime." It's about child abuse, sexual child abuse.

The editors of Life said it was not an easy report to publish, but they did, and in doing so helped raise this nation's awareness of the victims, the offenders, and how we can protect our families.

Because of this fine journalistic effort today we are honoring Life Magazine with our coveted Fourth Estate Award in recognition of its excellence in journalism.

At this time I would like the Life Magazine Reporter who wrote "The Cruelest Crime," Miss Cheryl McCall to come forward and accept the award with the grateful appreciation of The American Legion.

The award says, "The American Legion, 1985, Fourth Estate Award for distinguished service in journalism presented to the Life Magazine for "The Cruelest Crime" reported by Cheryl McCall, signed by myself as National Commander and by Robert W. Spanogle as National Adjutant, and it is also signed by the National Commission Chairman of Public Relations Bill Detweiler and his Division Director Hugh Dagley, and it is presented at the 67th Annual National Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26-28, 1985. Cheryl, thanks so very much. By the way, Cheryl is being accompanied today by Pete Axthelm.

**MISS CHERYL MCCALL**

**Life Magazine**

Thank you National Commander Bacon. Ladies and gentlemen, this is actually the second award I received from The American Legion and I thank you for it. I remember the first one well, I was in the 8th grade and somehow won a county-wide essay contest on patriotism that was sponsored by The American Legion.

It was the very first award I had ever received in my life and felt deeply touched and honored, as I do today. So, you see, this Fourth Estate Award has a very special meaning for me. But its real significance is much closer to my heart, that you chose the article "The Cruelest Crime," on the sexual abuse of children from among thousands of articles printed in 1984. It means that you as individuals and you as The American Legion care about this massive and serious problem. It is one that none of us can afford to ignore, especially now that we know how wide spread it is in this country.

The FBI statistics speak for themselves. Consider this, a child is sexually molested every two minutes in the United States. One in four girls and one in seven boys are victims of this most devastating of crimes. Most are abused before the age of 13, and many of those are unthinkably young at 18 months.

Because we also know that only one in ten cases is ever reported, we also know that this is a grizzly hidden epidemic that affects every community. Whether or not you are aware of this, the chances are that most of us know a victim of sexual abuse, and as uncomfortable as this fact makes us the odds are that most of us probably know a child molester.

The studies, the statistics and the victims tell us the cruelest fact of all. More than 50 percent of sexual abuse occurs within the family, beyond all the victims and offenders that I interviewed for this article. These facts were further supported by the outpouring of letters that came to light after it was published. There were hundreds and hundreds, more than any other story has elicited in the magazine's history.

I would like to share just a few with you so you will understand the impact it has.

"I am the mother of a sexually abused preschool child. When I read your article yesterday I cried for the first time in months, and I sat and shook like someone caught in the cold strong wind. My daughter was sexually abused by her father when she was 2, 3 and 4 years old. You have told us the way it is happening to us, and that alone will help us somehow someday."

Here is another letter. "I was deeply touched in reading your article. My interest comes from strong personal feeling that public exposure is necessary if treatment and prevention are to become reality, but there was also pain felt for I too was sexually abused as a child."

There is another letter, "It is the most heart shattering article I have ever come across. The impact upon Life will be enormous and hopefully very positive. Yet I am a victim of this, an uncle, a female cousin and a brother. I am now in therapy and have only begun to fight. It is the most difficult task I have encountered in all my 24 years of living. The pain is not one I can easily describe. The mental torture will remain for the rest of my life."

If you will bear with me I will read you yet one more. "I cannot tell you how this article hit me. I am 24 and have lived with guilt and shame for the sexual abuse that was placed on me by my brother. My life was hanging by a thread and I was ready to cut it. I felt that I was nothing but dirt and trash, that my life had no meaning. Although my family thought there was nothing wrong with me, they never suspected, and I was the best little girl. Little did they know that my brother was molesting me for 13 years. It took everything I had in me to tell my secret."

And a final letter. "I cannot shake the feelings of despair and frustration your article elicited, even in the warm light of morning. My four sisters and I were victims of sexual abuse as children. My frustration grew largely from my feeling of impotence. What can I do to help? I think that many others like us would like to help."

There is no need to feel impotent and frustrated, there is much that you can do to help. Recognizing and publicizing the problem of sexual abuse is the first step. When I was nine years old and this was being done to me I had no words to express it. I literally did not know what to call it. Many other victims said the same thing to me, the words were not in our vocabulary.

Well, I surely appreciate your recognition of the problem by bestowing the Fourth Estate Award on Life. I would ask you to do more. As a well respected national organization with the strong network of local American Legion Posts you are in a powerful position. You are the very hearts and minds of your communities and can cause change in a way very few organizations can.

First, The American Legion's National Commission on Children and Youth can publish a booklet on the problem explaining sexual abuse and emphasizing education and prevention programs.

There already are such books as "Good Touch, Bad Touch" available for use in your schools as well as video tapes, but these will not become part of your child's education unless you lobby for them as a safety issue, like teaching how to cross the street. Fear, ignorance and secrecy are the child molester's best weapons. Your best weapon against him is education and prevention.

Secondly, The American Legion needs to lobby for and demand legislation in every state which would provide therapy for victims. Studies have shown again and again that very few victims ever recover from the shattering trauma by themselves without the help of a trained professional. If we do not provide help we are asking for even more problems.

The FBI and the National Institute for Mental Health tell us that sexual abuse is either present or the very root of most of the social problems they study, runaways, prostitution, alcohol and drug abuse, suicide, mental illness and criminal behavior.

Consider these two frightening statistics. 96% of all serial killers studied were sexually abused as children and more than 50 percent of all known child molesters were themselves molested as children. You must get treatment for these victims before they start victimizing other children.

Third and finally, The American Legion can lobby for and demand legislation that provides both jail sentences and treatment for offenders. Prison is not enough. The offenders I interviewed told me that prison did not stop them. The studies show that punishment does not change behavior it only suppresses it. The studies also show that the average molester has abused an appalling total of 73 victims during this career. That is a lot of damage to America's children.

You have the opportunity and more importantly the ability to do something to stop the damage. You have the means and the ability to do something for the public good and for our most vulnerable and helpless citizens, our children. It is your duty as mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles and community leaders, as American Legion members, to expose this problem and to help solve it. You can lobby for these education prevention programs, you can demand treatment programs for victims and offenders. You can insist on better prosecution and stronger legislation.

I implore you on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of suffering children who are the victims of this cruelest crime not to turn your backs on this problem. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you very much for sharing that information with the audience, and I would like to tell you that Mr. Axthelm is a well known sports writer for Newsweek and a sports analyst for NBC. Thank you both for coming this morning.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The Chair recognizes Milton Applebaum of Illinois, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Constitutional Amendments, for the purpose of making a report.

## NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

### Milton Applebaum (Illinois) Chairman

This Committee on Constitutional Amendments met at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 25, 1985, in the Burgundy Room, of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Forty-eight members of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments were present. The following report was agreed upon by the members and is submitted for your consideration as delegates to this Convention.

The meeting was opened by National Judge Advocate P. B. Onderdonk, Jr., (MD), who acted as temporary chairman. The roll call indicated that a quorum was present. Committee Liaison Onderdonk proceeded to the first order of business which was the election of a permanent chairman and secretary. Milton S. Applebaum (IL), was elected Chairman and Coleman Nolen (OK), was duly elected Secretary, thereupon they assumed their respective places.

It was noted that copies of all the Resolutions, The American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws, the Report of the Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws, and the Report of the Commander's Special Study Committee on Eligibility had been distributed to all members of the Committee in advance of the meeting.

A motion was made by C. S. Lewis (NC), that members of the Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws be allowed voice but no vote in the Constitutional Amendments Committee meeting in accordance with the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions of The American Legion. The motion was seconded by Robert E. Gregg (MO), and adopted unanimously.

The chair stated that the following resolutions before the Committe on Constitutional Amendments were not in good form as resolutions proposing constitutional amendments and therefore, the Chair was ruling them out of order — Resolution No. 14 (TN), Resolution No. 148 (ME), and Resolution No. 262 (NV).

The Chair than asked for the Committee's pleasure on Resolution No. 156 (PA). This resolution pertained to the creation of additional National Vice Commanders. A motion was made by C. S. Lewis (NC), and seconded by James Robison (NJ), to reject. Thereupon views were expressed by Edward T. Hoak (PA), and E. Roy Stone, Jr. (SC), upon the merits of the resolution. On the question being called for by the Chria, motion to reject was put to a vote and the motion to reject was carried on a voice vote.

The next resolution to be considered by the Committee was Resolution No. 157 (PA), proposing enlargement of the eligiblity dates for membership in The American Legion. The Chair stated that there was a clerical error in the wording of the proposed amendment as pointed out in the Standing Committee's report in that in the latter part of Article IV, Section 1, of the Constitution in the proposed amendment, it reads as follows: "provided, further that no person shall be entitled to membership who . . . refused on conscientious, political or grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service." The Standing Committee report pointed out that the context indicated that the word "other" be supplied between the words "or" and "grounds" in the above quotation.

The Chair asked for unanimous consent that this resolution be corrected to permit the insertion of the word "other" as stated. Hearing no objection the Chair directed the Secretary to insert the word "other." The Chair further stated that the same omission was evident in Resolutions No. 158 (PA) and 261 (WI) and asked for unanimous consent to make the same corrections on these Resolutions also. Hearing no objection the Chair directed the Secretary to make this same correction on each resolution.

A motion was made to reject Resolution No. 157 (PA), by Alfred Harwood (MA), and seconded by C. S. Lewis (NC). The meeting then proceeded to hear discussion from the various members. Those who spoke in support of rejecting the resolution were Ralph Godwin (MS) Chairman of the Special Committee on Membership Eligiblity; Francis L. Giordano (NY), Chairman of the Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws; H. F. Gierke, III (ND), member of the Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws; Earl Franklin (CO); John A. Barnaba (NY); Richard R. Goforth (LA), member of the Standing Committee on Consitution

and By-Laws; Raymond E. Callegary (MD); James Robison (NJ); E. Roy Stone, Jr. (SC); Raymond Lee (WV); and Eugene Shiek (MN).

Those people speaking against rejection of the resolution and for the adoption of Resolution No. 157 (PA) were Edward T. Hoak (PA), James E. Chapin (WI), Elliott W. Morris (CT), Lydia Pickup (WA), Juan Bautista De La Cruz (PR), and Henry F. Renard (WI), Department Judge Advocate.

The question being called for, the Chair put the motion to reject the resolution to a vote. The motion to reject Resolution No. 157 (PA) was carried. The delegates from Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Puerto Rico, Connecticut and Washington asked that their votes of "No" be recorded.

The next resolution that was considered by the Committee was Resolution No. 158 (PA), which also proposed a change in the eligibility dates from membership in The American Legion. Discussion was brief and referenced the discussions of Resolution No. 157 (PA). Upon call for the question by the Chair the motion to reject Resolution No. 158 (PA), was made by Alfred Harwood (MA), and seconded by Earl Franklin (CO). Motion to reject the resolution was carried.

Delegates from the departments of Pennsylvania, Washington, Puerto Rico and Wisconsin asked that their "No" vote be recorded.

The next resolution to be considered by the Committee was Resolution No. 261 (WI), proposing an enlargement of the eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion. Eugene Shiek (MN) made a motion to reject the resolution, seconded by James Robison (NJ). After a brief discussion referencing the discussion of Resolutions No. 157 (PA) and 158 (PA), the question was called for and the Chair put the motion to reject Resolution No. 261 (WI) to the meeting and the motion to reject was carried on a voice vote.

The delegates from Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico and Washington requested that their "No" votes be recorded.

A motion was made by John A. Barnaba (NY), seconded by Herbert P. Robinson (FL), that the report of the Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws which had been circulated among the members of this Committee prior to the meeting should be made a part of the record of this Committee. The Chair put the motion to a vote and the motion was adopted.

A motion was made by Leon Reed (AR), seconded by Robert E. Gregg (MO), that the Committee authorize the Chairman and Secretary to sign the printed report to the Convention on behalf of the Committee. The motion was adopted.

A motion was made by Alfred Harwood (MA), seconded by Julius Maklary (AZ) to recess upon call by the Chairman. Upon adoption the meeting was adjourned.

**REPORT**
**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**
**TO**
**INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

The Standing Committee on Constitution and By-Laws met in the Elmwood Room, Hyatt Regency Hotel, on August 24, 1985, at 9:00 a.m., to consider seven (7) resolutions received proposing changes in the National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion.

Francis L. Giordano (NY), Chairman, presided and Milton S. Applebaum (IL), was designated as Recording Secretary. There were nine (9) members of the Committee present.

The first order of business was consideration of Resolution No. 14 (TN), which sought, "that the local Department and National Constitution and By-Laws be amended so as to extend membership eligiblity to all veterans who served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States of America for a period of ninety (90) days or more. Resolution No. 148 (ME), which resolution sought to amend the eligibility dates for membership to The American Legion "to include all persons who have served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States of America since December 7, 1941 through a period to be determined by the National Convention," and Resolution No. 262 (NV), which resolution sought to amend the Constitution of The American Legion pertaining to the eligibility dates for membership to include August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984."

These three resolutions were studied at some length by the Committee and it was pointed out that the resolutions were defective in that they do not provide for amending the language contained in Article IV, Section 1, and Article XIII, Section 2, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, nor did these resolutions provide to petition Congress of the United States to amend the Act incorporating The American Legion, which is required to amend the eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion. Because of the fact that Resolutions Nos. 14, (TN), 148 (ME) and 262 (NV) were defective, in the opinion of the Committee. The Chairman of the Committee ruled the resolutions out of order.

The next resolution considered by the Committee was Resolution No. 156 (PA). This resolution dealt with the election of National Vice Commanders to the effect that eight National Vice Commanders be elected in place of the present five National Vice Commanders and further that - "Each National Vice Commander shall come from one of the Departments represented in each of the eight regional areas established by the Internal Organization Commission" and provided that - "Each of the Departments in their respective regions should caucus at each National Convention, being presided over by the current National Vice Commander and with the accredited delegates electing their own National Vice Commander to serve for the current year," and provided that "the presiding National Vice Commander should make his or her report during assemblage of the National Convention approving the result of the eight caucuses."

The Committee noted in its discussions that these so called National Vice Commanders would not have been elected by the National Convention but at a regional caucus and therefore would be Regional Vice Commanders and not National Vice Commanders as they could only serve in the elected region.

The Committee members were of the opinion the resolution in permitting Vice Commanders to be nominated at a caucus would inhibit the entire delegates of the National Convention from nominating candidates, through their Chairman, and that they would be defranchised of their right to vote for a candidate who was not from their particular area.

This resolution, in subsection (d), provides that in each region "the accredited delegates electing their own National Vice Commander" and in subsection (a), provides "The National Convention shall elect a National Commander and eight National Vice Commanders." These subdivisions are contradictory.

Furthermore, the death or disability of the National Commander sets the stage for the selection of a National Vice Commander as the new National Commander. Thus, a Regional Vice Commander who was not elected at a National Convention by all of the National Delegates could become National Commander without having been sanctioned or elected by the delegates of the National Convention.

A motion was made by Keith D. Truax (CA), and seconded by Alfred F. Harwood (MA), that this resolution be rejected. The motion to reject was unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 157 (PA) was next considered. This resolution

did not seek to change the existing dates for eligibility to membership in The American Legion but sought to add additional dates, August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984, which would include those members of the Armed Forces who served in Beirut and Grenada.

This resolution is in proper form for amending the United States Code pertaining to the dates for eligibility to membership in The American Legion and the Constitution of The American Legion, however, in the latter part of Article IV, Section 1, the said proposed amendment states as follows: "refused on conscientious, political or grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service." The word "other" before the word grounds has been omitted by error.

This omission is not of such a material change that the intent of the resolution would change if corrected. By motion duly made by Richard R. Goforth (LA), and seconded by Milton S. Applebaum (IL), to include the word "other" the correction was unanimously passed. A correction was made so that the said letter portion to Article IV, Section 1, would state, when amended, "refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service."

This proposed change to the eligibility dates was one of the resolutions referred for consideration to the Special Committee appointed by National Commander Clarence Bacon, to study the resolutions pertaining to change in eligibility dates submitted for consideration pursuant to the study resolution adopted at the National Convention held in 1984 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Special Study Committee was chaired by Ralph M. Godwin (MS). The Committee reported to the National Executive Committee in May, 1985. Part of the report set forth the following:

"Your Committee has considered the history and precedents of the past eligibility studies, and we recognize that we live in a different world today, one far different from that of two decades ago. There is a strong possibility that the United States will be continuously facing all types of 'police actions' or 'hostilities' in all parts of the world. We may find ourselves in a state of continuing 'cold war' with no starting date and no ending date.

"Experience after the Korean War shows that **Increased Potential** does not necessarily mean **Increased Membership.**

Total number of 'war veterans' today - 22,782,000, or 81%.

Additional 'peacetime veterans' - 5,245,000, or 19%. National statistics show approximately 7,444,000 participants in World War I - of which number 50% went overseas; Approximately 16,535,000 participants in World War II - of which number 77% served overseas; and Approximately 6,807,000 participants in the Korean Conflict, of which number 59% served overseas. So **the potential is still there from the above groups!**

"The above analysis focusing on changes in membership eligibility alone, indicates an initial growth for one or two years following the expansion of eligibility (except in the case of first admitting Vietnam veterans). **The facts do not support a position that sustained growth would result from expansion of eligibility requirements.**

"The 1984 membership year recorded a total of 2,536,062, or 10.74% of **All eligible veterans.** According to another report compiled by the Veterans Administration, there were approximately 28,027,000 total living veterans as of September 30, 1984. The above figures indicate that **there are currently only 4,422,000 veterans who do not meet our present eligibility dates,** and that **this presents only 15.78% of all living veterans.**

"There is a great distinction between 'wartime veterans' as we know them, and the so-called 'peacetime veterans.'

'A great majority of the millions of men and women who served in the Great wars, World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam were truly 'citizen soldiers', as compared to the 'professional solider,' or 'career soldier,' or, we might think of them as 'recruitment and retention soldiers.'

"The World War I men and women enlisted or were drafted **because of World War I.** They felt that their country was in danger, and responded.

"The World War II men and women enlisted or were drafted **because of World War II.** They, too, felt that their country was in danger, and responded accordingly.

"The Korean veterans either enlisted or were drafted **because of the existing national emergency in Korea,** and responded accordingly.

"The Vietnam veterans either enlisted or were drafted **because of the call from their country** that a national emergency existed in that part of the world which necessitated our country's intervention in large numbers of military force.

"For all of the above, either true patriotism or action of the Selective Service System was the main consideration for entry into service.

"Congress has consistently recognized 'wartime veterans' as 'citizen soldiers', people whose lives were involuntarily interrupted by the Nation's decision to become involved in armed conflict. The personal sacrifices of 'wartime veterans' are viewed by the Congress with much more compassion than the conscious career decisions made by persons entering today's military service. As said before, today's volunteers are 'professional soldiers' who treat the military as a career option, and they are often attracted by the financial and other incentives available today, which were not available to wartime military participants.

"Only a small number of men were involved at any one time during the periods under deliberation, Lebanon, Grenada, the continued use of troops in Korea, at the Berlin Wall, etc., compared to the millions who were serving the military.

"If it is the desire of the Legion membership to consider these periods of service for eligibility, then this could be accomplished by making eligible those who were actually involved, by adoption as an eligibility criterion the earning of a campaign ribbon. This in essence would make The American Legion a veterans' organization with two classes of veterans, those who served during a period of war and those who served during a brief period of 'comparable' war time service. This action would satisfy the intent of at least seven of the Salt Lake City resolutions.

"All our sources of information seem to agree that Congress would eventually approve any change requested by The American Legion, but that the process of change would take from at least six to ten months to effect. All equally agree however, that with such a change from a 'wartime veterans organization' to one comprising 'peacetime veterans' also, our influence in the Congress would be seriously diminished.

"To promote the Legion's continued existence, Congress has approved a variety of 'favored treatment' measures. The Legion's property in Washington is specifically exempted by Congress from real estate taxation. Under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, the Legion retains a special income tax status, apart from other nonprofit groups. This status was upheld by the Supreme Court in May 1983, a decision that reaffirmed the authority of Congress to treat wartime veterans organizations with special consideration.

"In addition to the Legion's income tax exemption, money and material contributed to the organization is a 'charitable contribution' and can be deducted from one's individual income tax liability. Gifts to a Legion Post can be treated as 'gift tax deductions' on individual tax returns. Both of these were recently reaffirmed by an IRS ruling, and the ruling was almost exclusively based upon a 'wartime veterans' identification. In fact, the ruling (September 1984) clarified these tax considerations by requiring

that at least 90% of the members of the contribution/gift receiving group must be 'wartime veterans.'

"38 USC 101(11) defines 'period of war' as ' . . . the Spanish-American War, the Mexican Border period, World War I, World War II, the Korean conflict, the Vietnam era, and the period **beginning on the date of any future declarations of war by the Congress and ending on the dates prescribed by Presidential proclamation or concurrent resolution of the Congress.**' Veterans who did not serve during the prescribed periods would not qualify as 'war veterans.'

"The founding fathers deliberately chose a concept of eligibility which envisioned honorable service in time of war without regard to place of service."

The Godwin report quoted from the Stickel Committee Eligibility Study made in 1965.

"What is the concept of The American Legion as to eligibility? It is, that a war veteran who served in a major war (World War I, World War II) or national emergency (Korea) on active duty and honorably, only has to serve as little as one day between the actual hostility dates, whether combat or non-combat; or another way of putting it is, that all who served in the American Uniform at home as well as overseas, without distinction as to **length, location, or circumstance of service,** is eligible. World War I had 4,744,000 participants of which 50% went overseas, 116,000 died in service, 204,000 were wounded, and the United States was associated as co-belligerent with 20 other countries in this world conflict. In the case of World War II, there were 16,807,000 participants of which 77% served overseas, 406,000 died in service, 670,000 were wounded, and the United States was associated with some 24 other countries in this world conflict. In the Korean War, there were 6,807,000 participants of which 50% served overseas, 55,000 died in service, 103,000 were wounded and the United States was associated as co-belligerent with 15 other countries. In the case of Vietnam, we do not have accurate figures but certainly there has not been more than 75,000 participants (I believe there are actually 36,000 men now in Vietnam) . . .

"If you determine eligibility on 'time of service', you would definitely be letting in what we usually know as "peacetime veterans." For example: if there was only one operation involved such as Lebanon where we had only 5,600 men involved, but at the same time of this operation there were over 2,000,000 men in the Armed Forces, you would be letting in 2,000,000 men because 5,600 men had been in a military operation; and as a matter of fact, it would take in the Army and Air National Guard which were federalized in the Alabama and Mississippi situations.

"**CONCLUSION:** Your Committee, after a thorough study of all the facts involved, has agreed that if you should determine or fix eligibility requirements on 'place of service' you would violate one of the cardinal principles of The American Legion.

"After a thorough study of all the facts involved, your Committee also agreed that if you should determine or fix eligibility requirements on 'time or service' they would violate another of the cardinal principles of The American Legion, namely: that for all or part of the time there was no war or national emergency and therefore we would be letting in peacetime veterans."

"Changing our organizational philosophy as a 'Wartime Organization' to a 'Two Class Veterans Organization' would probably do two things: First, it would lessen the desirability of wartime veterans to belong, and second, it could cause the Legion to lose much of its 'clout' in Congress, and could weaken the ability to deal with issues concerning wartime benefits which are very much under attack at the present time, due to the huge national budget and rapidly spiraling deficit, and this is a time when The American Legion needs all its 'clout' in the Halls of Congress if we are to preserve a majority of the gains we have made through the years.

"We are assured that the first priority in veterans' committees of the Congress is **Consideration for service connected Disability,** and (2) **Consideration for War-Time Veterans** and from that point others not so classified merely fall into the large number of 'special interest' groups, with no particular standing or preference.

"Change in our status from a 'wartime veterans' organization to merely a 'veterans' organization would hamper the efforts of our Legislative Division and our lobbying actions in the Congress, due to the loss of our 'preferred status' as it presently exists.

"It is a heart-rending decision to turn a deaf ear to the pleas of those 20,000 servicemen who risked life and limb under hostile fire. The dilemma presented has no satisfactory solution. Those 20,000 cannot be admitted to membership in The American Legion without establishing a 'place of service' distinction, which is incompatible with the very basis upon which The American Legion was founded. To open eligibility for the period of the Lebanon/Grenada crisis is equally unsatisfactory since no feasible delimiting dates can be established and the overwhelming majority of the hundreds of thousands of servicemen in service during such incidents faced no realistic chance of ever being committed to the action."

The Committee discussed the benefits to be derived under the change of the dates suggested by this resolution and it was determined that it would open up the gates of membership to close to 2,000,000 servicemen and women who were in the Armed Forces during the periods in which the United States was not involved in war or combat, that of the 2,000,000 men and women in the service of the Armed Forces, less than 10% were sent to Beirut and Grenada to keep peace in those areas. The death rate was very small, as were the casualties.

There have been many other periods that the United States had military forces throughout the world prior to the formation of The American Legion and during its existence that do not provide for eligibility for membership in The American Legion to persons who served during those periods.

The Committee was of the opinion that the price and possible loss of the benefits granted to our organization was a wartime veterans organization would be too great an expense to gain the admission of a few members of the Armed Forces who actually served in Beirut and Grenada and in view thereof a motion was made by Alfred F. Harwood (MA), seconded by Keith D. Truax (CA), to reject Resolution No. 157 (PA). The motion was unanimously carried.

Resolution No. 158 (PA), was next considered. This resolution sought to change the dates of eligibility for admission for membership in The American Legion so that all persons who served during the period December 7, 1941 through and including July 31, 1984, would be eligible for membership in The American Legion.

The Committee was of the opinion that the same arguments that were set forth for the rejection of Resolution No. 157 (PA), applied to this resolution. Prior to a motion being made on this resolution a motion was made to correct the resolution to add the word "other" which had been omitted before the word "ground" in Article IV, Section 1, so that when it was amended it would state, "refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service." The motion was made by Keith D. Truax (CA), seconded by Milton S. Applebaum (IL). A motion was then made to reject this resolution by Alfred F. Harwood (MA), seconded by Richard R. Goforth (LA) and unanimously adopted.

Resolution No. 261 (WI) was next considered. This resolution sought to change the eligibility dates for membership in The

American Legion to include all persons in military service during the period December 7, 1984 to May 7, 1975. The Chairman indicated that this resolution had also omitted the word "other" before the word "ground" as in a prior resolution and in view thereof a motion was made by Keith D. Truax (CA), seconded by Milton S. Applebaum (IL) to amend by inserting the word "other" before the word "ground." The motion was unanimously carried.

The Committee discussed the reasons as have been set forth hereinabove and decided, based on prior experience, that little would be gained in the number of people who would join The American Legion and that the loss of prestige and benefits The American Legion enjoys, due to the fact that we are a wartime veterans organization would be too expensive, especially in light of the United States Supreme Court decision in 1983 whereby our tax exemption was upheld. The Supreme Court stated that in view of the wartime service of the members of The American Legion, we are a privileged organization and ... should be granted special privileges. And for all of the reasons set forth a motion was made by Richard R. Goforth (LA) and seconded by H. F. Gerke, III (ND), that the resolution be rejected. The motion was unanimously adopted.

There being no further business to come before the Committee a motion was made by Keith D. Truax (CA), seconded by Alfred F. Harwood (MA) and unanimously adopted to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN APPLEBAUM: I now move you, Mr. Commander, that the report of this Constitution and Amendments Committee be approved.

The motion was seconded by Delegate Dan Burkhardt (MD).

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Motion has been made that the Committee report be approved and it has been seconded. Any questions on the motion?

The Chair recognizes Microphone No. 3.

DELEGATE EDWARD T. HOAK, Pennsylvania: Edward Hoak, Delegate from the Department of Pennsylvania. So that we do not get confused, and we as Delegates get the opportunity to vote, I would like that Resolutions Nos. 157, 158 be set aside, so that we can discuss a change of eligibility.

And I direct a parliamentary inquiry as to the Minority Report I filed this morning at 9:15, that the Committee was so instructed at the meeting on Sunday. What happens to that Minority Report.

I move that they be set aside, 157 and 158.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: You move that 157 and 158 be once set aside, and then you have a comment on Minority Report.

DELEGATE HOAK: Correct. I would like to know what is the status of that report, and will it be read to the Delegates to the Convention?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: All right, we will take them one at a time. There are two items.

First, the two resolutions, and then we will come back later for the Minority Report.

There has been a motion to set aside, and they automatically will be set aside for later discussion.

Now with respect to the Minority Report, Mr. Chairman, do you have any comments on that?

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN APPLEBAUM: I haven't seen the Minority Report. And I know your views, Mr. Delegate Hoak, so I'm not prepared now to say anything about it.

As a matter of fact, I don't think it is before this Convention.

DELEGATE HOAK: I personally delivered that Minority Report to the National Judge Advocate at 9:15 this morning.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: I have a copy here. The National Adjutant has the Minority Report.

We will let you read that report if you so desire. After we take action on the motion, you then can read the Minority Report.

O.K., I understand you have to read it before we vote on the report. So at this time, why don't you read the Minority Report.

DELEGATE HOAK: The Minority Report for the adoption of Resolution No. 157.

This resolution does not seek to change the existing dates for eligibility to membership in The American Legion but seeks to add additional dates, August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984, which would include those members of the armed forces who served in the armed forces during the period of Beirut and Grenada.

Support for the change of eligibility dates to August 25, 1982 to July 31, 1984, is provided in the passage of the War Powers Resolution by the Congress of the United States over the Presidential veto on November 7, 1973. This resolution determines that those veterans serving between these dates are "war veterans" in every sense of the word.

Further, President Reagan sent an official notification to Congress on August 24, 1982, of his order dispatching the Marines. The notification, required under the War Powers Act, emphasized that there was "no intention or expectation that U.S. armed forces will become involved in hostilities," but they could "exercise the right of self-defense and will be equipped accordingly."

The Marines of the 32nd Marine Amphibious Unit landed in Beirut August 25, 1982, and took up positions in the port area. In that engagement 8,000 served off-shore, 4,800 on shore. The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal was awarded to all who served; 256 members of the military were killed and 80 were wounded in the Lebanon crisis.

During the period of the invasion of Grenada which includes the dates of August 25, 1982 to July 31, 1984, a total of 7,000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces participated. Eighteen were killed, 91 were wounded. The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal was awarded. A total of 8,612 medals were awarded, 4,581 Commendation Medals and numerous unit citations were presented. A total of 681 Bronze Stars also were awarded.

Those who served in the armed forces between the dates of August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984, are definitely considered to be "war veterans" under the provisions of the War Powers Resolution followed by the President of the United States.

To further identify these military veterans, serving from August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984, as war veterans, the federal government grants veterans preference to these veterans seeking federal employment.

The United States Marine Corps classified its fatalities at Beirut as "Killed in Action." Those who died there while serving with the U.S. Navy also were determined as "Killed in Action."

It is the opinion of this Legionnaire who served on two previous eligibility study committees that admitted the Vietnam veterans serving in the armed forces of the United States between the dates of August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984, meet all of the requirements to be defined as a "war veteran" as did those who served in World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

The term "war veteran" will bring additional honor and prestige to The American Legion as we accept these new veterans as members of our organization. Accepting these new veterans will bring youthful leadership to our organization and recognize the young veteran who served his country with distinction and honor.

Not to accept those who served between the dates of August 24, 1982, until July 31, 1984, would destroy the very concept of The American Legion which recognizes the comradeship of those who served our nation in time of war. War, realistically, must be defined under the provision of the War Powers Resolution passed by the Congress of the United States.

Accepting these new war veterans into our ranks is a necessary

section for the future of our organization. These new veterans would not only provide continuing leadership but an extension of life for the organization and its service to the nation. America in the future will have even greater need for the contributions that The American Legion has made to her in these last 66 years.

Since its chartering 66 years ago in 1919, has undergone several major changes in its membership eligibility requirements. These changes reflect the development of the United States as a world power with awesome responsibilities never even dreamed of by the Founding Fathers. In a sense, the Legion has grown with a nation, and the Legion must not now bury its head, so to speak, in the sand. We have a role of service in the real world.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The Chair recognizes Microphone No. 1.

Why don't you move to Microphone No. 2, sir.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DANIEL F. FOLEY, Minnesota: Mr. Commander, thank you. I rise to a point of order and ask for a ruling from the Chair as to whether or not the Military Report is properly before this Body, and the fact that we have set aside Resolutions 157 and 158 to which the Minority Report is directed.

They have been removed.

Those two resolutions have been removed from the rest of the report. Therefore, it would be irrelevant, since we are going to be, that report is, since we are going to be debating 157 and 158 separate from the rest of the report.

Would the Judge Advocate rule, please?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The motion on the floor is to approve the Committee Report, with the exception of setting aside Resolutions 157 and 158.

The Minority Report is not on the floor.

Is that clear?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER FOLEY: What is your ruling, is it out of order?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: It is out of order. There is no motion on the floor to cover the Minority Report.

Are there any other discussions on the motion to approve the Committee Report with the exception of setting aside of Resolutions 157 and 158?

No response.

COMMANDER BACON: All those in favor of the adoption of the report signify by the sign of aye; opposed. The ayes have it (unanimously) and the report is adopted.

Now we will go back to Resolution No. 157.

Resolution 157 was set aside.

Do I hear any comments with regard to 157? We will have Resolution No. 157 read.

Committee Chairman Applebaum read Resolution No. 157, which in its entirety is as follows:

**Res. No. 157 . . . SUBJECT: Change in eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion**

WHEREAS, The eligibility dates for The American Legion are determined by the Congress of the United States of America by the establishement of specific dates during which the United States of America was involved in a war, declared or undeclared, or other hostilities; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan sent an official notification to Congress on August 24, 1982, of his order dispatching the Marines. The notification, required under the War Powers Act, emphasized that there was "no intention or expectation the U.S. armed forces will become involved in hostilities," but they could "exercise the right of self-defense and will be equipped accordingly," and

WHEREAS, The passage of the War Powers Resolution, P.L. 93-148, by the Congress of the United States over the Presidential veto on November 7, 1973. This resolution determines that those veterans serving between these dates are "war veterans" in every sense of the word; and

WHEREAS, The Marines of the 32nd Marine Amphibious Unit landed in Beirut August 25, 1982, and took up position in the port area. In that engagement, 8,000 served offshore, 4,800 on shore. The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal was awarded to all who served. 256 members of the military were killed and 80 were wounded in the Lebanon crisis; and

WHEREAS, During the period of the invasion of Grenada, which is included within the dates of August 25, 1982 to July 31, 1984, a total of 7,000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces participated. Eighteen were killed, 97 were wounded. The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal was awarded. A total of 8,612 medals were awarded, 4,581 Commendation medals and numerous unit citations were presented. A total of 681 Bronze Stars also were awarded; and

WHEREAS, Those who served in the armed forces between the dates of August 24, 1982, to July 31, 1984, are definitely considered to be "war veterans" under the provisions of the War Powers Resolution followed by the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, To further identify these military veterans, serving from August 24, 1982, to July 31, 1984, as war veterans, the federal government grants veterans preference to these veterans seeking federal employment; and

WHEREAS, The United States Marine Corps classified its fatalities at Beirut as "Killed in Action." Those who died there while serving with the U.S. Navy also were determined as "Killed in Action."; and

WHEREAS, It is the opinion of the majority of the members of the Special Eligibility Committee that those serving in the Armed Forces of the United States between the dates of August 24, 1982, to July 31, 1984, meet all of the requirements to be defined as a "war veteran," as did those who served in World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. These veterans serving in the armed forces between these dates should be eligible to become members of The American Legion. These new dates of eligibility would make a potential two million veterans eligible to join The American Legion.

WHEREAS, It is the opinion of the Special Eligibility Committee that the term "war veteran" will bring additional honor and prestige to The American Legion as we accept these new veterans as members of our organization. Accepting these new veterans will bring youthful leadership to our organization and recognize the young veteran who served his country with distinction and honor.

WHEREAS, Not to accept those who served between the dates of August 24, 1982 until July 31, 1984, would destroy the very concept of The American Legion which recognizes the comradeship of those who served our nation in time of war. War, realistically, must be defined under the provision of the War Powers Resolution passed by the Congress of the United States.

WHEREAS, Members of The American Legion support our present men and women serving in the Armed Forces of our country today who are the real guardians of peace and each day their lives are placed in jeopardy as they perform their peacekeeping mission. Today men and women in the military service face greater danger than many World War II, Korean and Vietnam veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Legislation Commission be authorized and directed to petition the Congress of the United States to further amend Section 5 of the Act entitled "An Act to Incorporate The American Legion," Public Law No. 47, 66th Congress, approved September 16, 1919, (c. 59 Sec. 541 Stat. 286; October 29, 1942, c. 633, Sec. 2 56 Stat. 1012; July 9, 1946, c. 548 60 Stat. 524; December 28, 1960, c. 1177, 64 Stat. 1122; July 26, 1966, c.

386, Sec. 2, Stat. 380; September 1, 1966, Public Law 89-550, Section 2, 80 Stat. 372, Title 36 USC, Sec. 45; December 27, 1974, Public Law 93-557, Sec. 5, 41 Stat. 285, Title 36 USC, Sec. 45, December 21, 1979, Public Law 96-156), to read then as follows:

"Section 5."

No person shall be a member of this corporation unless he has served in the naval or military services of the United States at some time during any of the following periods; April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918, December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946, June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955, December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975, August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984, or who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of entry therein, served in the military or naval services of the governments associated with the United States during said war or hostilities; PROVIDED HOWEVER, that such person shall have an honorable discharge or separation from such service or continue to serve honorably."; and further be it

RESOLVED: That when and if the Congress of the United States enacts the above amendment, and the President of the United States shall have approved the same and it becomes law, then the National Constitution of The American Legion shall be deemed amended in conformance therewith, but subject to all consistent limitations and restrictions in the Constitution contained, all as provided for under Article XVII thereof, so that Article IV, Section 1, the American Legion Constitution, shall read as follows:

"Article IV-Eligibility"

"Section 1."

Any person shall be eligible for membership in The American Legion who was a member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Air Force of the United States and assigned to active duty at some time during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918, December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946, June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955, December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975, August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984, or who, being citizens of the United States at the time of their entry therein, served on active duty in the armed forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of the said periods, provided however, that such service shall have been terminated by honorable discharge or honorable separation, or is continued honorably; provided, further, that no person shall be entitled to membership who, being in such service during any of the periods, refused on conscientious, political or grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service.

"ARTICLE XIII-Auxiliaries"

"Section 2."

Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters and granddaughters of members of The American Legion and to the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters and granddaughters of all men and women who were in the armed forces of the United States during any of the following periods; April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918, December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946, June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955, December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975, August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984, or who being citizens of the United States at the time of entry therein, served on active duty in the armed forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of said periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion; now, further be it

RESOLVED: By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, goes on record as favoring this resolution.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN APPLEBAUM: Now I made a motion that this resolution be rejected.

. . . The motion was seconded by Delegate Dan Burkhardt, of Maryland.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Motion has been made and seconded by Dan Burkhardt of Maryland that Resolution No. 157 be rejected.

Any questions?

The Chair recognizes Microphone 2.

DELEGATE HOAK, Pennsylvania: I would like to make a substitute motion —

DELEGATE BILL BARNETT, Minnesota: Bill Barnett, Delegate from the Department of Minnesota. I speak as an individual here from the Department of Minnesota. I support the Committee action to reject, as a Vietnam era veteran of the great Department of Minnesota, who has achieved the 21st consecutive year of all-time high, with the longest string of all-time highs, and the membership in The American Legion, the national membership has grown 107,000 ahead of what we had last year at this time.

As an individual, I feel at this time, that this delegation here should support the Committee to reject at this time.

Thank you, National Commander Bacon.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you. The Chair now recognizes Microphone No. 4.

DELEGATE RAYMOND CALLAGARY, Maryland: Mr. Commander, Callagary from Maryland speaks in support of rejection of this resolution.

The Committee that performed the service this past year at your direction for a solid year investigated this problem, and did a historical research of membership eligibility in The American Legion.

There seems to be a statement from the opponents or the proponents to open this, but there is a great wave of enthusiasm to open these dates of The American Legion, and to change it from philosophically, a war veterans organization, to a two-tier organization, war veterans and peacetime veterans.

The national organization through its Adjutant's Letter through The American Legion magazine asked for comments, asked for input, asked for discussion concerning the eligibility dates.

Their records show that they got 161 letters out of 2½ million members.

In addition to the normal period of time, they extended the period of time. They opened up for personal presentation at the March Meeting in Washington, and the record shows, had little, if any participation at that time.

But the fact is, they got 161 letters. Some of those letters were in the negative, for change.

Now if we are looking for membership, veterans, according to studies shows that there are 28 million veterans in the United States, and 23 ½ million of them are eligible for the Legion. If we are looking for membership, it is out there.

A letter from the Direct Solicitation Program, as I understand it, brought it 120,000 to 130,000 members. Our problem is going to be to hold those members now that we have them. That is what our problem is going to be.

With reference to the difference between war time veterans and peacetime veterans, there is a difference.

A war-time veteran is drafted, or answers the call of his country, and I'm not putting down any non-war-time veterans. But they answered the call of their country.

The Secretary of the Air Force was in the other day, and he indicated to us that his biggest problem was the retention of servicemen at this time.

The United States lost 6,000 pilots between 1978 and 1980 or '81. He said that the retention of pilots when their terms expire floated with the ability of the commercial airlines and their desire and need for pilots. If those men would stay in during a period of time when jobs on the outside were not available, they would come out when those opportunities presented themselves.

The retention rate, he told us, was 13%. The retention rate was 13%.

Now if you want a difference between a war-time veteran and a peacetime veteran, look at the study that was just completed by The American Legion by Columbia University. It goes into what happens when a veteran who served in war-time, what happens to him personally. When you talk about a young veteran going into the service, being drafted, think of the individual who is just going into college, and he is drafted, or he is going to make another career choice. He goes in the service, and he spends three to four years. He comes out. That career that he had in mind is broken.

The Secretary indicated to us that the way they were trying to retain the veteran today was through bonuses; it was through anything that they could do to entice them to stay in. He said, "I wouldn't have a problem with equipment maintenance and with the operation of our equipment if I had the draftees, or I had people who came into the services in time of emergency."

So under those circumstances, there is a tremendous difference.

This is a war-time organization. Every year but four, every year but four since this organization was founded, there have been motions, and there have been attempts to change the eligibility. The only time that they have changed it is during a period of war. There are four periods.

As far as tax dependents are concerned, the organization is looked at differently by the Courts, and looked at differently by Congress. The IRS in 1983 made a ruling that our tax exemption was something that we were entitled to, and will continue on without any action taken upon it. That same year, the tax exemption was attacked by outside groups, stating that we had a right to lobby, and that they did not have a right to lobby. And that there was a difference there that had to be corrected.

The Federal Courts in 1983 decided that The American Legion, because of its war time service, was entitled to the difference. We were different. And we had a right to lobby. They gave us that right, because of that war-time service that we participated in.

When Congress looks at benefits for the lobbying veterans, it makes a difference whether you are a war-time veteran, or whether you are someone who came in another period of time; otherwise, you are just another type of an organization.

My last comment would be in reference to what is a period of war, because in that Federal Court case, they said — war-time veterans— what are war-time veterans, and what is the period of war? This Committee in its research set it out in their decision, 38 United States Code Annotated, 101 — a period of war is the Spanish American War, the Mexican Border War, World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. They did not include, although you may change it by legislation — but they did not include Grenada or Lebanon.

If The American Legion Founders wanted to open up the dates, they could have selected eight or nine incidences that occurred before they founded this organization when many veterans were still alive.

If they wanted to open up the dates, other incidences that we have had, we have had many incidents of armed conflicts after the founding of this organization. See how many pilots were killed in the Berlin Air Lift. You got 20. They did not do so, because this is a war-time organization, and decided there is a difference.

The best thing I can say in closing is that at that meeting the other day, there was a constitutional representative there for West Virginia, and he said in his own way, he said, "It is too soon to even talk about it. I'm not going to make any judgment or open this up on something that I can't correct later on. It is too soon."

We want to keep this organization as a war-time veterans organization.

I support the motion to reject the opening up of these dates and to change philosophically this organization from the war-time organization to a tier organization.

Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Any other discussion on Resolution No. 157?

DELEGATE STANLEY REINHARD, JR., Pennsylvania: Stanley Reinhard, Delegation Chairman of the Department of Pennsylvania. I speak in favor of a Resolution, mainly on the fact that yesterday morning, as I sat in this audience and heard our National Commander so eloquently put what we in The American Legion feel to be, that we remember that, and we care — how can we, in good conscience, return to our homes and face the individuals who have served in Beirut and Granada and tell them we don't want you. At the same time, Comrade Commander on the Committee that you appointed earlier this year, to go with this particular eligibility program, I might remind my Comrade Delegate from the State of Maryland, that that Committee approved this particular Resolution by a vote of 4 to 3. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The Chair recognizes Microphone 2.

DELEGATE, California: Larry Holmberg, a Delegate to this Convention from the great State of California. I would like to speak in favor of passing of Resolution 157 from Pennsylvania on a number of points.

First of all, at last year's National Convention, there were over 20 Department Delegations that submitted Resolutions to expand the eligibility dates, most of them to include the periods where we are concerned with now, during the Lebanon and Grenada affairs.

The Study Committee was appointed at that time to take this into consideration, take all of these into consideration, and to come up with a recommendation.

Study Committee recommended that we include the dates of this Resolution, that recommendation was rejected by our National Executive Committee.

Now, if we as Members of this organization submit Resolutions for consideration, and they are referred to a Study Committee, instead of being brought up and discussed on the floor, and we expect that there is going to be a recognition of what that Study Committee comes up with, and recommendations would follow through the National Executive Committee.

The second point I would like to bring up, is that as long as we are talking about these dates, which in, by the way, bullets that were shot at these men were exactly the same as the bullets that were shot at us during Vietnam, World War I and World War II and Korea. They were just as real, and they hurt just as much.

The tax exemption, when we request Congress to change and include these dates, I will guarantee you, above and beyond all the rhetoric that has been discussed, I will guarantee you, there is no way our tax exemption status is going to be affected. We are an effective lobby in Congress, and we can make sure that it is not affected.

The third point I want to bring up, is that the definition of war

has changed. We are not declaring wars anymore. Congress is not declaring wars anymore. We didn't do it in Korea, they didn't do it in Vietnam, that was the reason for the War Powers Act. Those men who were sent to Lebanon and Grenada were sent there because of that War Powers Act, and they fought for our country, and answered a call to duty just as well as we all did.

There was also mentioned that there are a lot of dates that have not yet been filled, that have not yet been recognized — the Berlin Airlift for one — there are numerous other ones that I can count. But suffice it to say, do we build our future on the mistakes of our past?

If we don't allow these gentlemen to be recognized, we are performing a disservice to our organization and to our Veterans.

The last thing I want to say, is that the people who went to Lebanon and Grenada have paid their dues. They have paid the price to be recognized as Members of this organization, and it is about time that this organization pays the price and recognizes them.

I as a Delegate from California oppose rejection of this motion, and would hope that this body of people would pass this unanimously.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Is there any other discussion on the motion to reject Resolution No. 157?

The Chair recognizes Microphone 4.

DELEGATE LARRY LITTLE, Nevada: Larry Little, Department of Nevada, Delegate. Mr. Commander, I also would to like to speak for the passage of 157.

I can relate as a Vietnam Veteran coming back and The American Legion Members rejected me as being in a war.

I feel that we the Delegates of Nevada feel strongly that these dates should include the Grenada and Lebanon as they were just as much a war as I served in Vietnam. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Is there any other discussion?

DELEGATE JOHN BARNABA, New York: John Barnaba, Delegate of the Department of New York. I am fearful that adopting this Resolution will make a precedence we will rue and regret in future years.

This Resolution does not seek to admit to Membership servicemen who have served in great wars, but rather men who served during times where we have been subject to acts of criminal terrorism. Beirut is such a case.

Our actions in Grenada eliminated a hazard, a potential hazard of criminal terrorism by removing a base for potential terrorist operations within the Western Hemisphere.

If we adopt this Resolution, then we will have to entertain demands in the future to admit to Membership all the servicemen who shall serve during times of such criminal terrorism.

Since Grenada and Beirut, we have had six Marines killed in El Salvador within this year. And we had a car bombing incident at the military base in Frankfort, Germany — all acts of criminal terrorism.

Recently, you have seen the TWA hostage situation where servicemen were passengers on that plane, and one sailor savagely murdered. We deplore such acts and extend our sympathy and prayers to the families of those who died, but should such exposure to criminal terrorism be sufficient to expand eligibility to Membership within The American Legion?

The Founding Fathers of The American Legion stated in the Preamble that, "We associate ourselves to preserve the memories of our Associations in the Great Wars."

There was no intent to expand eligibility in a general fashion.

We have seen similar events between World War I and World War II, and even following World War II. Yet the floodgates of Membership were not opened up to admit Membership to those who served during such times.

We should not do so now. We should uphold the reputation of our organization, that only members of wartime service be eligible for Membership, and accordingly, I would ask that the Resolution be rejected and all those Resolutions that are similar that may follow.

Thank you, Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Any other comments?

The Chair recognizes Microphone No. 3.

DELEGATE BRIAN D'ORIOCOURT, Louisiana: Mr. Commander, Brian D'Oriocourt from the State of Louisiana, the Delegate to this Convention.

I too, have written a Resolution which passed my State last year at its Convention to accept Lebanon and Grenada as Veterans. I think it is time that The American Legion not drag their feet and act promptly to accept these brave Veterans who are no less protectors of democracy than anyone in this building.

If we keep continuing to drag our feet, these gentlemen will come back from these wars and join other organizations who are ready to accept them, and turn up their noses at The American Legion and say, "Oh, well, you didn't need me when I first got back. Now that you're dying off, you want us. Well, we don't need The American Legion."

I heard people talk about the day that the people got in the service of their country today. The way they talk, you would think that everyone in the service today is in it for the money, that they are paid mercenaries. I don't believe this.

The Great Wars — do we have to kill hundreds of thousands to qualify in The American Legion as a Great War?

Maybe we need to amend our Preamble to read a little differently, in the service of our country.

The Study Committee initially approved the passage of these Resolutions. They come back, they say, well, we only got 161 responses from The American Legion Members out there on acceptance or rejection of this. I ask you, how many Post Commanders got a letter asking for response?

I don't think very many got it. A couple of the Department Commanders may have gotten it, but I doubt very seriously that every Post Commander got a letter asking to poll his Membership for their feelings.

Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Any other comments by anyone?

DELEGATE JOHN J. MADDUX, Tennessee: Mr. Commander, John Maddux, Delegate to this Convention from the Department of Tennessee.

It is a pleasure for me, as a Vietnam Veteran, to rise and speak on this issue. The debate boils down to one issue, that is whether we want The American Legion to be known as an organization of wartime Veterans.

The alternative is to be known as one being composed of peacetime Veterans.

The American Legion's Founding Fathers provided for Membership to be based on active and honorable military service during a time of war. All of our present Members are Veterans who served while our country was engaged in a Great War. When you use eligibility dates as a requirement for Membership, by doing this, we are freed from other possible Membership requirements, such as length of service, circumstances of service and location of service.

If we change our present dates of eligibility to include times when our country was not involved in a Great War, we will be allowing millions of peacetime Veterans who did not serve in Beirut or Grenada to be eligible for Membership.

The qualifications might well include a loss of clout in Congress.

I worked for a Congressman for 7½ years, and friends on the Hill often asked me if I was a member of the Veterans organization that wanted to change its charter all the time? I always said, "No, I'm a Member of The American Legion."

Another possible consequence would be the diluting of the concepts of the organization as it was based. Our Founders said that we should be a wartime organization. To move in the direction opposite of that, I think would be a big mistake.

To maintain the status quo, we will still make our goal of 1,000,000 Members, and we continue our great Veterans Americanism Programs and at the same time continue to be recognized as the world's largest and most effective Veterans organization.

In Tennessee, we have a saying that says — If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject Resolution No. 157. And Mr. Commander, I move the previous question.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: We have a motion to call for the question.

Do I hear a second?

The motion was seconded by many Delegates.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: We have a motion and second to call for the question. That is non-debatable.

Let me ask the Chairman to comment and we will go from there on the vote.

DELEGATE JOHN J. DUNN, SR., Pennsylvania: Commander, point of parliamentary procedure.

We have a motion on the floor now to call the previous question. That is a motion for a vote. And does that have to be placed to a vote before we hear the closing statements of the Chairman of the Commission?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The Judge Advocate will give me a ruling in just a minute and I will answer your question.

DELEGATE DUNN: Thank you, Commander.

DELEGATE JOHN B. COMAN, California: John Coman, Judge Advocate, Department of California.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Sorry, you're out of order. Sorry, you are out of order.

DELEGATE COMAN: I have a point of order to raise, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: We are under a motion and a second to call for the question.

I will ask Judge Advocate to look up the rules of the Convention, and as soon as I get that information I will answer the question at Microphone No. 3.

At the present time, you are out of order.

DELEGATE COMAN: This is Microphone 2, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: What was your comment?

DELEGATE DUNN: I raise the question of whether it is appropriate for someone who has made a speech opposing the particular point of view to make a motion for the previous question.

In my judgment, Robert's Rules of Order prevents that person from making a motion for the previous question.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The Judge Advocate has indicated that the motion was proper, since he was speaking in favor of the motion to reject.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ERLE COCKE, JR., Georgia: If I could, Mr. Commander, Microphone No. 4. Will you give me your attention?

I think I can clarify your situation. I did not speak in the debate. I therefore have the right to move the previous question. This previous question motion will be in order.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: We have a motion. Do I hear a second to move the previous question?

The motion was duly seconded by many Delegates.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Under the rules of the Judge Advocate indicated to me that the Chairman, even though you have a motion on the floor with a second to call for the question has the right for the final comments.

And I am trying to verify that.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDEE COCKE: That is correct.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: I will give the Chairman the opportunity to make the final comments and then we will call for the vote.

DELEGATE DUNN: Mr. Commander, a point of parliamentary order, please.

Delegate Dunn, Delegate from the Department of Pennsylvania.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Sir, you are out of order. I just indicated that the Chairman will make the final comments. And then I will call for the vote.

DELEGATE DUNN: I'm not questioning the Chairman's final comments, Mr. Commander.

What I am questioning is, do we have a motion on the floor to terminate the debate? Should that motion not be put to a vote in order to determine whether debate should be terminated? If we listen to the Chairman give his final remarks, then that is presuming that the motion to terminate debate has been approved, and that the debate is terminated, except for the Chairman's final remarks.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The Chair, based on information from the Judge Advocate, has ruled that we do have a motion on the floor to close debate. The Chairman has a right to speak. If a motion fails what we do then, debate would continue. But, the Chairman at this time has a right to make closing comments on that motion, and that is under Rule No. 5 of this Convention.

DELEGATE JOHN J. DUNN, SR.: Mr. Commander, I appeal the decision of the Chair.

The motion was seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: That motion is out of order.

DELEGATE DUNN: Mr. Commander, an appeal of the decision of the Chair is never out of order, Roberts Rules of Order.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: It takes three Departments in order to do that — it takes two Delegates in order to do that.

DELEGATE DUNN: You have two Delegates.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Who are the two Delegates?

DELEGATE DUNN: John Dunn from the Department of Pennsylvania, a duly elected Delegate to this Convention, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Who is the other?

DELEGATE JAMES A. CHAPIN: Jim Chapin, Delegate to this Convention from the Department of Wisconsin.

DELEGATE DUNN: Rule " of the Rules of Debate. Under parliamentary procedure the decision of the presiding officer may be subject to appeal by any two Delegates under point of order, and such appeal shall take precedence over any pending motion and shall be decided forthwith. An appeal from the decision of the Chair shall be put to the Convention on the question shall the Chair be sustained.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: All right, does everybody understand the question? The question is whether the Chair shall be sustained.

DELEGATE DUNN: The Chair to be sustained in doing what, Mr. Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: In continuing with the business of the motion on the floor.

DELEGATE DUNN: You mean allowing —

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Allowing the Chairman to speak on the motion on the floor.

DELEGATE DUNN: Before the motion to limit debate is ruled on?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Correct. So, the vote here is whether the Chair shall be sustained in allowing the Chairman under Rule No. 6 to make his comments prior to taking the vote on the motion to reject Resolution No. 157, that is to close debate.

Now, all those in favor of sustaining the Chair signify by the sign of aye, opposed. Would you do that again. All those in favor of sustaining the Chair to allow the Chairman to make remarks before closing debate signify by the sign of aye, opposed. I think the ayes have that and the Chairman is allowed to speak.

CHAIRMAN MILTON APPLEBAUM: Delegates, I am in a spot of not having any particular words of wisdom on this debate, all I am going to do is summarize briefly much of what has been said before. I appreciate this opportunity.

I have been a member of The American Legion for a long time. I read with interest the tremendous amount of work and study of the Study Committee, and I commend it to all of you.

The Committee made on recommendation for enlargement on a four to three vote, and at our Convention Committee on Constitutional Amendments one of the members who voted for the recommendation for enlargement — and I believe that was the Delegate from Colorado — said he felt after due consideration that he was changing his vote, so, it became a four to three against any change in the Constitution.

The Constitution has been in pretty good shape up to now. There have been changes, proposed changes, but none of an enlargement nature since back when the Vietnam veterans were admitted to membership.

Listening to the debate of many of you Delegates, and attempting to explain the pros and cons, may I point out to you this distinction. The American Legion has herefore historically been an association of war veterans without any animus to any other veterans organizations. We have a philosophy born of the service during time of war which we brought back home to our respective communities. The proposed amendment seeks to make campaigns and isolated situations, which we sympathize with, no American soldier should die needlessly. Every soldier that has died in the service that has shown hazardous service is entitled to our respect and consideration, regardless of the minuteness of the service or the sacrifice he has made. We have no criticism against those people who organize to commemorate service in the service, and I can recall in 1917-18 where my cousin got a bit of a frostbite that has lasted him all his life. He, as a matter of fact, joined the Legion from other service, but this particular service didn't qualify him. I have a friend who was torpedoed three times in the Merchant Marine in World War II, and then when he came back home he got a term of service as a peacetime veteran. I sympathize with the hazards and horrors of being torpedoed three times. I was in the Pacific and I wasn't torpedoed once, but that doesn't get back to the practical question of whether we are going to remain an organization of war veterans dedicated to the principles and philosophies of The American Legion molded in the 67 years since its origin when we have always been an organization of war veterans.

You have heard also when you make that distinction about the recognition that Congress has made to this organization to tax benefits and the opportunity and the consideration for preferred recognition as men who served this country in time of war, which we would give away if we would enlargement membership as an umbrella organization for each and every arm of service, no matter how meritorious.

I wanted to point out to you again that we are an organization where rank is not recognized, classes of membership are not recognized, and yet if we take the turn that this resolution wants we create for ourselves the peacetime veteran, the wartime veteran, the special expeditionary force veteran, and we make for ourselves a real problem. We don't know who to serve first, where as now we know the veteran in time of war in our prime consideration, his needs, the needs of his widow, the needs of his children and his own needs as he get older. We know who we are for. Again with this resolution it proposes that we take in a lot more people, perhaps people that can take care of themselves as organizers better than we can.

And let me ask you another one. We brought this up, somebody brought this up, the question of, is this resolution ready today? Is it not premature? We have here a resolution that wants to take in because of special service thousands if not hundreds of thousands of veterans who did see service in Lebanon. We sympathize with those thousands who did see service in Lebanon, who would now be eligible if this resolution were in effect. We sympathize with the hazards in Lebanon, but do we need to take them into this organization, or people who come in sort of like vicariously because of the service and the hazards of that expedition.

Finally let me ask you this. We have got a lot of unjoined members, people, war veterans who are eligible for this organization. Don't you think that at this time it is more important to get those veterans to see things our way and join our organization rather than seek to encompass and be an umbrella organization for veterans who are not eligible now who are peacetime veterans?

Let me conclude. You know, we are going to have to rewrite the Preamble if we get into another problem. So, I say to you I hope you will sustain the decision of the Committee, your Committee, in fact, and the deliberations that we conducted where there was a complete review and examination of all of the years work starting with Ralph Godwin Committee, the Committee on Study, the Standing Committee, and our strong deliberations. I thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: I want you to understand that the vote is to close debate and it takes a two-thirds vote in order to close debate. There is no further debate on this motion, so, all in favor of closing debate signify by the sign of aye opposed. The motion is carried by more than two-thirds and debate is closed.

We have the main motion, and that motion was to sustain the Committee's recommendation to reject Resolution 157. Is there any further comment for the Chairman?

CHAIRMAN APPLEBAUM: No.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The Chairman says he has no further comments, and we will now take the vote.

DELEGATE DUNN: Mr. Commander, a point of parliamentary inquiry. Microphone No. 3. John Dunn Delegate from Pennsylvania. It is my understanding, Mr. Commander, that the motion on the floor is to reject Pennsylvania's Resolution No. 157?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The motion on the floor is to reject Pennsylvania's Resolution No. 157. A yes vote is to reject.

DELEGATE DUNN: And if people are in favor of passing Resolution 157 then at this time they should vote no, is that correct, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: A yes vote is to reject the Resolution and a no vote would not be to reject the Resolution.

DELEGATE DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Are you ready for the vote? All in favor of rejecting Resolution 157 and sustaining the Committee signify by the sign of aye, opposed. The ayes have it, 157 is rejected.

DELEGATE STANLEY W. REINHARD, JR., PENNSYLVANIA: Commander, Commander, Microphone No. 3. Stanley Reinhard, Delegate of the Department of Pennsylvania calls for a roll call vote.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: To receive roll call vote you need the Chairman of the Delegates from three Departments, and this is under Rule No. 15.

DELEGATE REINHARD: I so am, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Are you the Chairman?

DELEGATE REINHARD: Yes sir, I am. Stanley Reinhard, Department Commander, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Microphone No. 4.

DELEGATE CHARLES LANGEL, NEVADA: Charles Langel, Delegation Chairman from Nevada seconds Pennsylvania's motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Microphone No. 2.

DELEGATE JAMES D. WELCH, CALIFORNIA: Commander, Jim Welch, Delegate to this National Convention, Commander of the Department of California and Chairman of the Delegation from California. California is demanding a roll call vote.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: That is three Departments. I need the names of all three people who requested that, so, California, what was your name?

DELEGATE WELCH: California, The Commander of the Department, Jim Welch.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: You are the Delegation Chairman?

DELEGATE WELCH: I am.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: We do have three Chairmen of Delegations asking for a roll call vote, so at this time I will ask the Adjutant to call the roll. Now, when the roll call is called remember that the vote of yes sustains the committee recommendation to reject Resolution 167. A vote of no is to not reject. Each Department when you come to the microphone to vote, it must be the Chairman of your Delegation. You must state your name and your Department and then cast your vote.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Please open all microphones. Alabama.

DELEGATE JOHN M. TYSON, ALABAMA: Alabama, this is John Tyson, Chairman of the Delegation. Point of inquiry. We do not have a majority of our delegation on the floor. We are prepared to vote for the Delegation that we do have. Are we permitted to vote for those without caucus? We don't know how they will vote, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The majority of those present vote.

DELEGATE TYSON: Do we have a unit rule, that is the question?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: You do not have a unit rule, but the Chairman may vote for all the Delegates from that Department. As long as the majority of Delegates here say they want to vote one way or the other you cast their vote.

DELEGATE TYSON: In other words, are you saying under the unit rule then not to vote?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: You are not voting under the unit rule, sir, but you can cast the majority of the Delegates present which will carry all of your Delegates with them.

DELEGATE TYSON: Well, under that ruling then Alabama votes 29 yes.

Alaska, Department Commander William G. Blair from Alaska, 12 votes yes.

Arizona, Delegate E.M. "Frank" Bunch, Department of Arizona, 34 votes no and 5 votes yes.

Arkansas, Ernest Bradshaw, Chairman of the Arkansas Delegation, 33 votes yes.

California, Delegate James D. Welch, California passes.

Canada, Robert Jorgensen, Delegate Chairman, 7 votes yes.

Colorado, Everett McConnell, Delegate Chairman, 22 votes yes and 4 votes no.

Connecticut, Elliott Morris, Delegate Chairman, 32 votes yes.

Delaware, No response.

District of Columbia, Tom Koceves, Acting Delegation Chairman, 10 votes yes.

Florida, Paul Rogers, Chairman of Delegates, 86 votes yes.

France, Arnie Mazarky, Delegate, France passes.

Georgia, J.C. Hartwick, Delegate, 43 votes yes.

Hawaii, Robert J. Conrad, Delegation Chairman, 8 votes yes.

Idaho, Michael Schow, Delegation Chairman, 13 votes yes, 2 votes no.

Illinois, Delegate Roy B. Koerneman, 165 votes yes, 2 votes no.

Indiana, K. W. Obl, Delegation Chairman, 131 votes yes.

Iowa, Vincent E. Black, Delegation Chairman, 69 votes yes.

Italy, Frank C. Bottiglhero, Delegate, 6 votes yes.

Kansas, Stuart Breen, Delegation Chairman, 62 votes yes.

Kentucky, Larry Boss, Delegate, 34 votes yes.

Louisiana, Roy Kirkham, Delegate, 47 votes yes, 6 votes no.

Maine, George Gagnon, Delegation Chairman, 31 votes yes.

Maryland, Donald Messick, Delegation Chairman, 74 votes yes.

Massachusetts, John J. Mulkern, Delegation Chairman, 66 votes yes.

Mexico, Thomas L. Hogan, Delegation Chairman, 5 votes yes, 2 votes no.

Michigan, Donald K. Harris, Delegation Chairman, 86 votes yes.

Minnesota, W.B. (Brad) Jorgens, Delegation Chairman, 110 votes yes, 21 votes no.

Mississippi, Joe Ghetti, Delegation Chairman, 20 votes yes.

Missouri, Seth A. Shorum, Delegation Chairman, 66 votes yes.

Montana, C. Hal Manson, Delegation Chairman, 18 votes yes.

Nebraska, Jack Gilmont, Delegation Chairman, 21 votes yes, 2 votes no.

Nevada, Charles Langel, Delegation Chairman, 10 votes no.

DELEGATE JACK GILMONT, NEBRASKA: Mr. Chairman, Jack Gilmont, Delegation Chairman from Nebraska. The vote was 21 votes yes, 50 votes no.

New Hampshire, Albert T. Marcoux, Delegate, 7 votes yes, 2 votes no.

New Jersey, John Hein, Delegation Chairman, 79 votes yes.

New Mexico, Santiago Hidalgo, Delegate, 17 votes yes.

New York, Donald E. Klein, Delegation Chairman, 109 votes yes.

North Carolina, Harvey W. Hall, Delegate, 40 votes yes.

North Dakota, Earl H. Redlin, Delegate, 37 votes yes.

Ohio, Robert B. Steele, Delegate, 135 votes yes, 11 votes no.

Oklahoma, C.E. Jack Swank, Delegation Chairman, 43 votes yes.

Oregon, Stan Shreve, Delegate, 29 votes yes.

Panama, No Response.

Pennsylvania, Stanley W. Reinhard, Delegation Chairman, 2 votes no.

Philippines, Ernesto P. Goles, the Philippines delegate abstains.

Puerto Rico, No Response.

Rhode Island, Walter B. Ferry, Sr., Delegate, 15 votes yes.

South Carolina, A. J. Le Chair, Delegation Chairman, 28 yes.

South Dakota, Bob Searl, Delegate, 33 votes yes, 2 votes no.

Tennessee, Jay Harville, Delegation Chairman, 39 votes yes, 2 votes no.

Texas, John D. Morris, Delegation Chairman, 80 votes yes, 2 votes no.

Utah, Milton M. Hall, Delegation Chairman, 13 votes yes.

Vermont, Thomas D. Coutts, Delegation Chairman, 21 votes yes.

Virginia, Murry York, Delegation Chairman, 43 votes yes.

Washington, Howard Jensen, Delegate, 41 votes yes.

West Virginia: Jack T. Gribben, Delegation Chairman, 33 votes yes.

Wisconsin: James A. Chapin, Delegation Chairman, 27 votes yes, 26 votes no.

Wyoming: Irvin "Tiny" Quick, Delegation Chairman, 14 votes yes.

California: James D. Welch, Delegation Chairman, 26 votes yes, 16 votes no.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Delaware.

France: Charles Rallis, Jr., Delegate, 9 votes yes.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: Panama, Puerto Rico.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The roll call is complete. As soon as the tallies are finished we will give you the vote.

DELEGATE ALBERT T. MARCOUX, NEW HAMPSHIRE: Commander, point of order. Commander, point of order. Commander, on microphone 3.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Go ahead, microphone 3.

DELEGATE MARCOUX: Under Convention Rule 13 New Hampshire wishes to change its vote to read as follows, 24 yes, four no.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: New Hampshire, would you repeat that vote.

DELEGATE MARCOUX: 24 yes, four no.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT SPANOGLE: 24 yes, four no.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The tally has been validated on Resolution 157, which was a motion to reject, and there were 3,429 votes to reject it, 588 no votes. Resolution 157 is rejected.

NOTE: According to Rule No. 13 of the Standing Rules of the Convention those not present or not voting are counted as voting for approval to adopt the Committee's recommendation of rejection.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: I will now ask the Chairman of the Committee to come back to the microphone regarding Resolution 158. Committee Chairman Applebaum.

**COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN APPLEBAUM:**

Resolution No. 158 Title: **Change in Eligibility Dates for Membership in The American Legion**

WHEREAS, The eligibility dates for The American Legion are determined by the Congress of the United States of America by the establishment of specific dates during which the United States of America was involved in a war, declared or undeclared, or other hostilities; and

WHEREAS, Since December 7, 1941, and until recent times, the United States has been involved in wars, police actions or some type of action involving the armed forces making U.S. military personnel the peacekeepers of the world; and

WHEREAS, Since December 7, 1941, and until today, members of the United States Armed Forces have been on patrol, flying missions, rescue attempts and naval operations protecting U.S. Embassies and keeping the peace during which time their lives are placed in jeopardy defending the United States, it is therefore believed that all those who served during these periods of crises should be eligible for American Legion membership; and

WHEREAS, As the result of the Secretary of the Navy, effective 1982 having approved a large number of young men and women involved in the Lebanon Operations for the Expeditionary Medal, they became eligible for membership in the VFW other national veterans' organizations have accepted for membership those who served in Grenada and Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, Members of The American Legion support our present men and women serving in the Armed Forces of our country today who are the real guardians of peace and each day their lives are placed in jeopardy as they perform their peacekeeping mission. Today men and women in the military service face greater danger than many World War II, Korean Vets and Vietnam Era veterans; and

WHEREAS, The United States Office of Personnel Management has made if effective February 7, 1984, that Veterans preference be awarded to veterans who have been awarded the Lebanon Operation Expeditionary Medal, commencing August 20, 1982, the ending date to be determined later, and to those veterans awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal in the Grenada Operation, the medal being authorized for service beginning October 23, 1983, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the National Legislation Commission be authorized and directed to petition the Congress of the United States to further amend Section 5 of the Act Entitled "An Act to Incorporate The American Legion," Public Law No. 47, 66th Congress, approved September 16, 1919, (c. 59, Sec. 541 Stat. 285; October 29, 1942, c. 633, Sec. 2, 56 Stat. 1012; July 9, 1946, c. 546, 60 Stat. 524; December 28, 1950, c. 1177, 64 Stat. 1122; July 26, 1955, c. 386, Sec. 2, Stat. 380; September 1, 1966, Public Law 89-550, Section 2, 80 Stat. 372, Title 36 USC, Sec. 45; December 27, 1974, Public Law 93-557, Sec. 5, 41 Stat. 285, Title 36 USC, Sec. 45; December 21, 1979, Public Law 96-155), to read as follows:

> "Section 5.
> "No person shall be a member of this corporation unless he as served in the naval or military service of the United States at some time during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941, to July 31, 1984, or who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of entry therein, served in the military or naval services of the governments associated with the United States during said war or hostilities; PROVIDED HOWEVER, that such person shall have an honorable discharge or separation from such service or continue to serve honorably," and, further be it

RESOLVED: That when and if the Congress of the United States enacts the above amendment, and the President of the United States shall have approved the same and it becomes law, then the National Constitution of The American Legion shall be deemed amended in conformance therewith, but subject to all consistent limitations and restrictions in the Constitution contained, all as provided for under Article XVII thereof, so that Article IV, Section 1, the American Legion Constitution, shall read as follows:

> "ARTICLE IV ELIGIBILITY
>
> "Section 1.
> Any person shall be eligible for membership in The American Legion who was a member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Air Force of the United States and assigned to active duty at some time during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918, December 7, 1941 to July 31, 1984, or who, being citizens of the United States at the time of their entry therein, served on active duty in the armed forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of the said periods; provided, however, that such service shall have been terminated by honorable discharge or honorable separation, or is continued honorably; provided, further, that no person shall be entitled to membership who, being in such service during any of the periods, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service.

"Article XIII-Auxiliaries

"Section 2.

Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters and granddaughters of members of The American Legion and to the mothers, wives, daughters, sister and granddaughters of all men and women who were in the armed forces of the United States during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941 to July 31, 1984, or who being citizens of the United States at the time of their entry therein, served on active duty in the armed forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of said periods, and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion, "now, further be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, go on record as favoring this resolution.

Mr. Commander, I move the rejection of Resolution No. 158 which I just read.

The motion was seconded and the motion to reject Resolution No. 158 was adopted.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The Chair now recognizes Mr. W. F. Lenker of South Dakota, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, for the purpose of making a report.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

**W. F. Lenker (South Dakota) Chairman**

To the Sixty-Seventh Annual National Convention of The American Legion, New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985:

Eighty-nine members of your Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation met at 9:00 a.m. on August 15, 1985 in Grand Ballroom F, of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, and again on August 27, 1985 in the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation cubicle, National Headquarters Office, and agreed on the following report, which is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

The Committee was called to order by Robert E. Lyngh, CO, Liaison Representative appointed by the National Adjutant to act as temporary chairman. John F. Sommer, Jr., OH, Deputy Director of the Commission, acted as temporary secretary and called the roll. A quorum being present, nominations were received for permanent chairman. William F. Lenker, SD, Chairman of the Standing National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Convention Committee.

With unanimous consent, the Chairman appointed Fred C. Heinle, WI, as Committee secretary, Ralph Stone, NJ, Chairman, and Grace Madsen, OR, secretary, respectively of the Medical and Hospital Subcommittee; and Jim Hurlbert, NE, Chairman, and Mike D'Arco, NM, secretary, respectively, of the Claims and Rating Subcommittee.

Subcommittee liaison assignments were as follows: Robert E. Lyngh, Director, and Phil Wilkerson, Assistant Director for Claims, to Claims and Rating; and John F. Sommer, Jr., Deputy Director, and Rodney S. Kirk, Assisant Director for Program Management, to Medical and Hospitals.

The following officials were present from the Veterans Administration:

Everett Alvarez, Jr., Deputy Administrator
Dr. John W. Ditzler, Chief Medical Director
Raymond J. Vogel, Chief Benefits Director
Arthur Hamerschlag, Deputy Chief Memorial Affairs Director
Donald L. Ivers, General Counsel
Kenneth E. Eaton, Chairman, Board of Veterans Appeals
Frank S. Sato, Inspector General
Leo Wurschmidt, Executive Assisant to the Deputy Administrator
Ralph Crossen, Special Assistant to the Administrator

As has been custom for the 41 previous National Conventions, special Department Service Officers Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation resolutions, in a 3 day pre-convention meeting, screened and grouped the resolutions. A report of the analysis, with recommendation, was presented to the Convention Committee for considerations.

The Convention Committee expressed appreciation of the work performed by this Screening Committee in analyzing resolutions. They conserved the time of the Convention Committee substantially. The Screening Committee was composed of following Department Service Officers:

Region 2 - Anthony Druzbik, New York
Region 3 - A. V. "Bubba" Akin, Georgia
Region 4 - John Scorsone, Louisiana
Region 5 - Jack Walters, Missouri
Region 6 - Val Likens, Iowa

The Convention Committee recommends that such a committee be appointed for this purpose to serve the 67th National Convention on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

The 113 Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation resolutions presented for consideration of this Convention were referred by Resolutions Assignment Committee from 33 Departments. The resolutions are classified as follows:

Policy .....
National Cemeteries .....
Medical and Hospitals .....
VA Hospitals .....
Claims and Rating .....
Vocational Rehabilitation and Education .....
Insurance .....

The following action on the resolutions was taken by Convention Committee:

Approved or Approved as amended .....
Consolidated with resolutions approved .....
Received and Recorded .....
Referred to the Standing Committee .....
Rejected .....

A report of action taken on the 45 resolutions referred to Standing National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission will be made to the National Executive Committee and the Adjutant of the Department concerned, and, in addition, will be contained in the National Adjutant's report of the 67th Annual National Convention.

In each category, the resolutions are arranged in sequence to permit orderly consideration of related topcis by this Convention.

### APPROVED OR APPROVED AS AMENDED RESOLUTIONS:

**Policy**

**Res. No. 20** (KS) — **The American Legion Policy on Resumptive Disabilities of Former Prisoners of War**

WHEREAS, in its concern for the welfare of all those who have served in the nation's Armed Forces, one of the major concerns of The American Legion has been the welfare of those who have been Prisoners of War; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has supported various legislative measures intended to alleviate the disabilities that afflict former POWs as a result of experiences during internment; and

WHEREAS, most recently The American Legion supported enactment of Public Law 97-37, the Former Prisoners of War Benefits Act of 1981, approved August 14, 1981; and

WHEREAS, there are now surviving approximately 85,000 former POWs of the four American Wars of the Twentieth Century; and

WHEREAS, continued observation of their condition during the years subsequent to their internment indicates additional health problems probably associated with the internment; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a fundamental obligation to do all possible to alleviate any and all health problems of former POWs, and see to their physical, social and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, there is an apparent need to further modify the current provisions of title 38 of the United States Code that provide for former POWs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion shall support legislation to amend section 312 of title 38, United States Code, in such a way as to provide presumptive service connection for the following conditions in the absence of demonstrable intercurrent disease or injury:

1. Hepatitis or other infectious diseases of the liver;
2. Organic residuals of hypothermia, e.g., trench foot, immersion foot or hand, Raynaud's Disease;
3. Arthritis;
4. Peripheral neuropathy;
5. Chronic pulmonary disease (where there is history of forced labor in mines during internment);

and, be it further

RESOLVED, that The American Legion support amendment of section 612(b)(1)(G) of title 38, USC, to strike out the words "six months" and insert in lieu thereof the words "thirty days,"; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that The American Legion shall support any and all efforts on the part of the United States Government to alleviate and ameliorate social, economic and physical disabilities experienced by former POWs where such disabilities can reasonably be attributed to the effects of internment by the enemies of the United States.

**Res. No. 21** (KS) — **Oppose any legislative or administrative initiative that would impose a means test on non service-connected veterans seeking Veterans Administration health care**

WHEREAS, the Administration has proposed the implementation of a means test for nonservice-connected Veterans Administration health care; and

WHEREAS, the initiative that has been set forth calls for, among other things, the repeal of section 610(a)(6) of title 38, United States Code, thereby eliminating the authority to provide nonservice-connected veterans age 65 and older with eligibility for VA hospital and nursing home care without regard to their inability to defray the expense of such care; and

WHEREAS, under the Administration proposal eligibility for medical care for nonservice-connected veterans would be based upon a formula that considers income and assets as the major determining factor; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes a means test would prove to be ineffective because available information indicates that most of the nonservice-connected veterans that use the VA medical care system are old, sick, and poor, and if forced out of the VA system, these veterans would have to resort to Medicare, Medicaid, or to other publicly supported institutions; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary reasons for the implementation of subsection 610(a)(6) of the title was the fact that nearly every veteran age 65 and up is eligible for Medicare; and

WHEREAS, current available figures continue to reflect that the average daily cost of treatment in a VA facility is less than the average daily cost of care provided through Medicare; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes, based upon its knowledge of the users of the VA medical care system, that if a means test were implemented it would submit to the establishment of another administrative mechanism that would accomplish nothing; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion oppose any legislative or administrative initiative that would impose a means test on nonservice-connected veterans seeking Veterans Administration health care.

Consolidated with this resolution are: **No. 295 (MN)**; and, **No. 367 (VA)**.

**Res. No. 28** (ND) — **Oppose any proposal that would consolidate or centralize the operations of the Veterans Administration Regional Offices**

WHEREAS, it has been proposed to consolidate the majority of the operations of the Veterans Administration Regional Offices into one or a maximum of three centralized locations; and

WHEREAS, such a proposal is neither reasonable nor practical; and

WHEREAS, if any such proposal becomes a reality, it will seriously effect the role that veteran organizations play in the daily operation of the Veterans Administration Regional Office; and

WHEREAS, any such action would eliminate the individual and personal representation in the presentation of claims in behalf of claimants before the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes that any such centralization of the Regional Offices would involve large expenditures of Federal funds and is not cost-effective; and, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in national Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion oppose any proposal, from whatever source, that would consolidate or centralize the operations of the Veterans Administration Regional Offices.

Consolidated with this resolution are: **No. 62 (NE); No. 138 (IL); No. 368 (VA); and No. 393 (TX).**

**Res. No. 61** (NE) — **Oppose further curtailment of Veterans Administration health care benefits for veterans**

WHEREAS, one of the most important benefits provided by a grateful nation to its veterans is the Veterans Administration health care program; and

WHEREAS, the VA health care program is being restricted in its ability to provide care to the maximum number of veterans who are eligible and apply for such care, by reason of funding limitations imposed by the Executive and Legislative branches of the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion does not believe it is fair, nor in accord with the wishes of the American people that the needs

of sick and disabled veterans be sacrificed on the altar of fiscal austerity; and

WHEREAS, the size of the present veteran population, occasioned by the four American wars of the Twentieth Century, is now in excess of 28 million; and

WHEREAS, not more than approximately 10% of these 28 million veterans are regular users of the VA system, these being the service disabled and the oldest, the sickest and the poorest of the veteran population; and

WHEREAS, the advancing age of the World War II veteran population is placing special needs and demands on the VA system, for more specialized and long-term types of care; and

WHEREAS, these needs and demands will continue to increase through the balance of this Century, and into the Twenty First Century; and

WHEREAS, the funding provided for veterans health care has not kept pace with inflation during the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, the system is in continuing need of large-scale funding for the renovation and replacement of outdated facilities, by reason of past neglect of these needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion petition the President and the Congress of the United States.

1. Not to limit the eligibility of the nation's veterans to VA health care benefits, and
2. To provide adequate funding to the Veterans Administration to enable it to continue to offer "state of the art" medical care to those veterans who are eligible for, and need and apply for such care;

and, be it further

RESOLVED, that The American Legion shall oppose, with the maximum of its energy and resources, any and all efforts, from whatever source, to restrict, curtail or to eliminate the entitlement of honorably discharged veterans to health care from the Veterans Administration, wherever and whenever such care is needed and applied for by such veterans.

Consolidated with this resolution are: **No. 294 (MN); No. 394 (TX); and, No. 395 (TX).**

**Res. No. 115** (Ohio) — **Oppose any and all proposals for further reductions in any of the veterans benefit programs**

WHEREAS, the current Veterans Administration appropriation for veterans benefits and programs is less than 3% of the total appropriations for the Federal Government — as it has been for the past several years; and

WHEREAS, veterans programs are not consuming an increasing share of the Federal dollar; and

WHEREAS, while it would appear that the Veterans Administration budget is continually growing, the cost of veterans programs, in real dollars, is actually decreasing; and

WHEREAS, there are suggested recommendations which, if carried out, would not only transfer practically all of the Veterans Administration's current programs to other Federal agencies, but would likewise eventually eliminate the Veterans Administration entirely; and

WHEREAS, the beneficiaries of all these programs and services are either the service disabled and their dependents and survivors, the aged, or those seeking pension benefits based on real need; and

WHEREAS, over the past several years some veterans benefits have been eliminated, and each time there is an austerity program within the Federal Government, systematic attempts are made to reduce appropriations for Veterans Administration programs; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has, and will continue to make known to all segments of government, that it stands fo funding for veterans programs; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion will not accede to or in way agree to further erosion or elimination of veterans ben for the purpose of reducing the Federal deficit, now, therefor it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Conve assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985 The American Legion shall oppose any and all proposal further reductions in any of the veterans benefit programs.

Consolidated with this resolution are: **No. 179 (AR); and, 239 (OK).**

**Res. No. 292** (MN) — **Benefits for Canadian veteran U.S. Armed Forces residing in Canada**

WHEREAS, veterans laws of the Dominion of Canada pro that veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States receive war veteran allowance and other benefits after resid in Canada for ten or more years; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 94-491, approved October 14, 1975, vided hospital and medical care to members of any Armed Fo of the Government of Czechoslovakia or Poland and particip while so serving in armed conflict with an enemy of the U States, and has been a citizen of the United States for at leas years; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes it fitting and pr that the United States should extend similar benefits to vet of the Canadian Armed Forces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Conve assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985 The American Legion support legislation to amend title 38, U States Code, so that the Administrator of Veterans Affairs provide benefits to Canadian veterans of the U.S. Armed Fo resading in Canada.

**Res. No. 346** (WI) — **Oppose the efforts of any perso groups of persons to acquire designation as "veterans" did not render service in the active military, naval o service of the United States**

WHEREAS, the term "veteran" is presently defined by se 101(2) of title 38, United States Code, which reads; the "veteran" means a person who served in the active military, or air service, and who has been discharged or released t from under conditions other than dishonorable; and

WHEREAS, Historically, the term "veteran" has been rese for those who have served in the uniformed services of the na and who have taken oath to bear arms in defense of the Repu and

WHEREAS, the designation as a veteran is an appellati honor that should properly go to those who have earned it a no others; and

WHEREAS, to be designated a veteran bears with it entitle to substantial rights and benefits provided by the nation in r nition of service rendered in the national interest; and

WHEREAS, there is a considerable number of groups o sons who did service and support the war effort during va periods of conflict, but who did not serve on active duty i military, naval or air service, and did not take the oath to arms; and

WHEREAS, there is currently an effort by some of these gr to persuade the government to grant to them the designati "veteran", with all rights and benefits appertaining thereto

WHEREAS, the granting of the designation of "veteran" to groups would diminish the value of the designation and re the significance of the honor that is attached to the designa and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of pe

who are veterans by reason of service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, it is of essential importance to The American Legion, and to the purposes for which it was organized to maintain the definition of the term "veteran" as it is presently defined in section 101(2) of title 38, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion shall oppose the efforts of any person or groups of persons to acquire designation as "veterans" on the basis of service rendered to the United States during a period of war or armed conflict, such service not having been rendered in the active military, naval or air service of the United States; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Organization shall make such representations as are necessary to the Executive and Legislative Branches of the Federal Government to make clear the opposition of this Organization to the granting of such designation with the rights and benefits appertaining thereto.

### Medical and Hospitals

**Res. No. 25** (ND) — **Support legislation to provide full dental care to veterans who are rated at 50% or more for service-connected disabilities; and, full dental care for any veteran that has a service-connected dental condition due to trauma**

WHEREAS, current law and regulation limit dental care to a very small number of veterans, primarily those who are rated at the 100% service-connected level for diabetes, for stomach ulcers, or for dental trauma (limited to the particular teeth involved in the trauma); and

WHEREAS, a dental trauma all too often affects all of the teeth, both upper and lower, and thus requires treatment for these teeth and gums, current law and regulation not permitting treatment for the other dental areas affected; and

WHEREAS, it is possible for a veteran with only one tooth involved in a service-connected rating to eventually require that all teeth be removed or replaced with dentures, at VA expense, due to improper dental care; this situation could be eliminated by providing preventive dental care thus resulting in overall savings to the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is dedicated to the principle of the finest medical care available for disabled veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion support legislation to provide full dental care to veterans who are rated 50% or more for service-connected disabilities; and, full dental care for any veteran that has a service-connected dental condition due to trauma.

**Res. No. 114** (OH) — **Oppose Veterans Administration Department of Medicine and Surgery contracting out of service deemed essential for delivery of integrated quality medical care to eligible veterans**

WHEREAS, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-76, dated March 29, 1979, as revised, established for Federal agencies "Policies for acquiring commercial or industrial products and services needed by the Government"; and

WHEREAS, the present Administration has instructed all Departments and Agencies to proceed with implementation of Circular A-76; and

WHEREAS, it became clear that Circular A-76 would impact seriously on the Veterans Administration Department of Medicine and Surgery; and

WHEREAS, the Congress responded to the critical situation that was developing in connection with the implementation of the OMB policy by passing legislation that was enacted into law which prohibits use of funds appropriated for VA medical care to carry out cost comparsion studies for Circular A-76; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Management and Budget is circumvening the intent of Congress by continuing its efforts to impose contracting out on the Department of Medicine and Surgery; and

WHEREAS, it is the judgment of The American Legion that the commercial contracting out of services provided to veterans by VA Department of Medicine and Surgery will adversely affect the quality and timeliness of care delivered to sick and disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has opposed and continues to oppose those efforts of the Office of Management and Budget that tend to fractionate the Veterans Administration as the sole Federal agency responsible for the delivery of quality hospital and medical services to the nation's veterans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion shall vigorously oppose Veterans Administration contracting out of those services or activities deemed essential for retention in Veterans Administration medical care facilities in order to insure the timely delivery of quality health care to the nation's eligible veterans.

**Res. No. 268** (SC) — **Support legislation to provide outpatient VA dental services and treatment to veterans of World War I**

WHEREAS, the average age of the veterans of World War I is approximately 85 years; and

WHEREAS, the surviving veterans of World War I are no longer employable, and in many instances are subsisting at or below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the United States and the Federal Government have a direct obligation to ensure that all of the veterans of World War I are not forgotten in their later years; and

WHEREAS, section 612 of title 38, United States Code, provides eligibility for outpatient dental services and treatment to be provided by the Veterans Administration in certain instances; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, which was founded by the veterans of World War I, has a special obligation to determine their needs and to adequately address them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion support legislation to amend section 612 title 38, United States Code, to provide eligibility for outpatient dental services and treatment to every veteran of World War I.

### Claims and Rating

**Res. No. 27** (ND) — **Oppose taxing compensation payments paid by the Veterans Administration to service-connected disabled veterans**

WHEREAS, the Administration's Tax Reform Plan had originally included provision to tax VA compensation payments to service-connected disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the current rates for compensation benefits are predicated upon the fact that such benefits are not subject to taxation; and

WHEREAS, taxation of such VA benefits would adversely affect the financial security of our nation's disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, taxation of veterans' compensation would represent a breach of faith with this category of veterans; and

WHEREAS, resolutions have been passed by both the House of

Representatives and the Senate expressing the sense of Congress that VA compensation should not be taxed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion totally oppose any initiative to tax compensation payments paid by the VA to service-connected disabled veterans.

**Res. 65** (NE) — **Support legislation to amend section 314, 38, USC, to increase the monthly rates of disability compensation**

WHEREAS, disability compensation is a monthly payment made by the Veterans Administration to a veteran because of a service-connected disability; and

WHEREAS, these disability compensation payments are based on a schedule of ratings of reduction in earning capacity from specific injuries or combination of injuries adopted by the Administration of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, in response to increased cost of living and other factors, the weekly take home pay of the blue collar workers in non-agriculture employment is constantly increasing; and

WHEREAS, to maintain the purchasing power of these disabled veterans, or those entitled to receive these monthly benefits, the rates payable must respond to cost-of-living increases; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of The American Legion that there is no way to adequately compensate a veteran for loss of ability to be a working, productive member of our society, and that the monthly rates of disability compensation do not adequately compensate these disabled veterans for their loss due to reduced earning capacity; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes a further readjustment in the amount of disability compensation rates is needed so that these veterans can fulfill their fundamental purpose, that is, to assure that they have sufficient economic maintenance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion support legislation to amend section 314 of title 38, United States Code, to increase the monthly rates of disability compensation.

I will now turn over the further reading of the report to the General Secretary Fred Heinle from Wisconsin.

. . . Committee General Secretary Fred Heinle continued the report as follows:

## RECEIVED AND RECORDED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 6 of the Fall 1966 meeting of the National Executive Committee amended the Uniform Code of Procedure for the organization of National Conventions to provide that the term "Received and Recorded" shall be applied to resolutions which reiterate or reaffirm a present policy or position of The American Legion, or which have been accomplished by law, regulation or by other purposes.

### Policy

**Res. No. 53** (MA) — Support legislation to upgrade the Administrator of Veterans Administration to cabinet level status (Covered in existing mandate)

**Res. No. 63** (NE) — Oppose those reorganization plans that would transfer from the Veterans Administration sole jurisdiction of any veterans benefits and services programs (Covered in existing mandate)

**Res. No. 67** (NE) — Seeks legislation to correct the Social Security benefit disparity known as the "Notch" problem (C
ered by existing mandate)

**Res. No. 142** (IL) — Seeks legislation to correct the Soc
Security benefit disparity known as the "Notch" problem (C
ered by existing mandate)

**Res. No. 296** (MN) — The American Legion Policy on Ag
Orange (Covered by existing mandate)

**Res. No. 375** (IA) — Radiation exposure cases be entitle
medical treatment on a presumptive basis (Covered in exis
mandate)

**Res. No. 376** (IA) — The American Legion Policy on Ag
Orange (Covered in existing mandate)

**Res. No. 377** (IA) — The American Legion Policy on radia
exposure cases (Covered in existing mandate)

**Res. No. 392** (TX) — Oppose any reductions in travel pay
veterans to and from hospitals and medical centers (Covere
existing mandate)

**Res. No. 417** (Philippine Islands) — Urging the extensio
the operation of the United States Veterans Administration f
Manila for another five years up to 1990 (Covered in exi
mandate)

### National Cemetery

**Res. No. 301** (MN) — Seeks support of the VA in continuin
practice of utilizing upright headstones at Ft. Snelling Na
Cemetery (Covered in existing mandate)

### Medical and Hospital

**Res. No. 18** (SD) — Urge the President of the United Stat
the Congress to provide full funding for all Veterans pro
(Covered in existing mandate)

**Res. No. 19** (KS) — Urge the President of the United Stat
the Congress to provide full funding for all Veterans Pro
(Covered in existing mandate)

**Res. No. 137** (IL) — Support legislation to provide su
funding to enable VA to utilize all modalities available
health care field (Covered in existing mandate)

**Res. No. 415** (Philippine Islands) — Sponsor and s
legislation to resume grants-in-aid programs to Philippi
erans Memorial Medical Center including nursing hom
(Covered in existing mandate)

### Claims and Rating

**Res. No. 35** (NH) — Sponsor and support legislation
vide a special pension program for Veterans of Worl
(Covered in existing mandate)

**Res. No. 60** (NE) — Support legislation to provide
payment of a clothing allowance to any Veteran with a co
ble skin condition when it is determined there is clothing
due to the use of prescribed medications (Covered in
mandate)

**Res. No. 64** (NE) — Sponsor and support legislation t
Public Law 95-588 to increase the guaranteed income
claimants may receive benefits from VA (Covered in
mandate)

**Res. No. 109** (OH) — Sponsor and support legislation
remove the restriction against the receipt of Armed Forc
ment pay, due to length of service, concurrently with VA
sation (Covered in existing mandate)

**Res. No. 111** (OH) — Sponsor and support legis
restore the payment of burial allowance, and to inc

burial allowance for Veterans to $400 (Covered in existing mandate)

**Res. No. 138** (IL) — Sponsor and support legislation to amend 314(k), 38 USC, to add one lung or one kidney to the list of anatomical loss of use disabilities (Covered in existing mandate)

**Res. No. 144** (HI) — Support legislation to delete the end-of-the-month rule for pension (Covered in existing mandate)

**Res. No. 164** (PR) — Support legislation to increase the burial allowance (Covered in existing mandate)

**Res. No. 300** (MN) — Urges legislation to provide that compensation received from work incentive programs shall not be counted as income for pension purposes (Covered in existing mandate)

**Res. No. 373** (IA) — Support legislation to provide for the payment of a clothing allowance to Veterans with a compensable skin condition and for certain other compensable conditions when it is determined there is clothing spoliage (Covered in existing mandate)

**Res. No. 374** (IA) — Sponsor and support legislation to amend 38 USC, Section 3203, so as to increase the amount of pension payable to certain veterans who are furnished domiciliary, hospital or nursing home care (Covered in existing mandate)

**Res. No. 378** (IA) — Sponsor and support legislation to amend Title 38, USC, Chapter 15, to further improve the disability and death pension program for Veterans and their dependents (Covered in existing mandate)

### Insurance

**Res. No. 113** (OH) — Support legislation to amend 38 USC, Chapter 19, so as to provide a special Government Life Insurance program for Vietnam Era Veterans (Covered in existing mandate)

## REFERRED RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions are being referred to the Standing Commission for staff study or administrative disposition.

### Policy

**Res. No. 34** (NH) — Support legislation seeking asbestos disease compensation for Veterans

**Res. No. 42** (VT) — Support legislation seeking asbestos disease compensation for Veterans

**Res. No. 52** (MA) — Support legislation seeking asbestos disease compensation for Veterans

**Res. No. 103** (DC) — Support legislation which would provide judicial review of the decisions of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs

**Res. No. 118** (OH) — Support legislation seeking asbestos disease compensation for Veterans

**Res. No. 149** (ME) — Support legislation seeking asbestos disease compensation for Veterans

**Res. No. 153** (CO) — Support legislation seeking asbestos disease compensation for Veterans

**Res. No. 193** (IN) — Support legislation seeking asbestos disease compensation for Veterans

**Res. No. 260** (PA) — To allow judicial review of claims denied by the Veterans Administration

**Res. No. 277** (WA) — Support legislation seeking asbestos disease compensation for Veterans

**Res. No. 281** (MO) — Support legislation seeking asbestos disease compensation for Veterans

**Res. No. 307** (GA) — Support legislation seeking asbestos disease compensation for Veterans

**Res. No. 372** (IA) — Oppose the co-location of the VA Regional Office, Des Moines, IA, to Knoxville, IA

### National Cemeteries

**Res. No. 68** (NE) — Urges The American Legion to support establishment of a National Cemete, y in Eastern Nebraska

**Res. No. 112** (OH) — Urges The American Legion to support establishment of a National Cemetery in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation area in Ohio.

**Res. No. 141** (IL) — Urges The American Legion to support the establishment of a National Cemetery in Northern Illinois

**Res. No. 276** (WA) — Urges The American Legion to support establishment of a National Cemetery in the State of Washington

**Res. No. 297** (MN) — Opposes staff reduction in VA's Department of Memorial Affairs

**Res. No. 323** (NY) — Seeks changes in current VA policy which will allow the Long Island, New York National Cemetery office to remain open seven days a week

### Medical and Hospital

**Res. No. 25** (ND) — Support legislation to amend 38 USC to provide outpatient treatment fee basis care to all former prisoners of war

**Res. No. 54** (MA) — Oppose the curtailment of services at the VA outpatient clinic in New Bedford, MA

**Res. No. 116** (OH) — Support legislation pertaining to chiropractic care for veterans

**Res. No. 117** (OH) — Support legislation to provide chiropractic health care services to Veterans

**Res. No. 140** (IL) — Support legislation to provide chiropractic care to Veterans

**Res. No. 150** (ME) — Support legislation which will result in directing the VA stipend to benefit Veterans rather than replacing State and Federal Medicaid dollars

**Res. No. 154** (HI) — Recommends that employees in the Readjustment Counseling Service (Operation Outreach) who have received satisfactory performance appraisals be placed in career conditional status

**Res. No. 240** (OK) — Seeks increased starting salaries for registered pharmacists at VAMC Muskogee, OK

**Res. No. 299** (MN) — Urges The American Legion to support changes to enable military retirees to obtain VA medical aids

**Res. No. 308** (Mexico) — Sponsor and support legislation to amend 38 USC, Section 624 to obtain equal rights in the VA for non-American Veterans residing abroad in cases of service-connected disability

**Res. No. 345** (WI) — Support legislation pertaining to chiropractic care for Veterans, Armed Forces personnel, dependents and military retirees.

**Res. No. 349** (NJ) — Recommends VA conduct a study to determine efficiency of current Management Systems and Models

**Res. No. 371** (IA) — Urges The American Legion to oppose the implementation of the Resource Allocation Methodology Program

**Res. No. 396** (TX) — Urges The American Legion to support initiatives to assure chiropractic health care be made available to all Veterans, Armed Forces personnel, dependents and retirees.

. . . Committee Chairman Bill Lenker continued the Report as follows:

### VA Hospitals

The following resolutions are recommended for referral to the Standing Commission for presentation to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, with the request that each Resolution be considered in connection with the Veterans Administration's overall planning to insure that there will be sufficient hospital and nursing care beds, other medical care, and domiciliary facilities, meeting the present high standards for the VA hospital system, and suitably located throughout the country for Veterans requiring hospitalization and medical treatment, or domiciliary care, for their service-connected disabilities, and for war Veterans suffering from non-service-connected disabilities, and who are unable to pay for needed hospitalization, nursing, or domiciliary care.

**Res. No. 136** (IL) — Support legislation to provide sufficient funding for additional space at VAMC Marion, IL

**Res. No. 293** (MN) — Support legislation to secure funds to expedite the opening of the outpatient clinic in Duluth, MN

**Res. No. 391** (TX) — Oppose any initiatives which would reduce the size and scope of the new Houston VAMC

**Res. No. 397** (TX) — Urges The American Legion to support establishment of a satellite outpatient clinic in Tyler, TX

**Res. No. 398** (TX) — Urges The American Legion to support the establishment of a satellite outpatient clinic in Ft. Worth, TX.

### Claims and Rating

**Res. No. 55** (MA) — Sponsor legislation to eliminate those provisions of the United States Code which prevent the payments of disability compensation for those veterans still active in the U.S. military reserves

**Res. No. 266** (SC) — Sponsor and support legislation to require scheduled reviews of the 1945 Schedule for Rating Disabilities

**Res. No. 267** (SC) — Support changing VA regulations requiring a Veteran on pension benefits to advise the VA when he enters a VA hospital whereby his pension benefit will be reduced by the VA

**Res. 269** (SC) — Oppose excluding all VA benefits in the determination of eligibility for Medicaid assistance for nursing home care

**Res. No. 390** (TX) — Oppose legislation changing age at which the VA consaders a Veteran permanently and totally disabled for a non-service-connected pension

**Res. No. 418** (Philippine Islands) — Urging the settlement of unpaid claims of Filipino Veterans that were postponed in 1966

### Vocational and Rehabilitation and Education

**Res. No. 56** (MA) — Sponsor legislation to rename the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 the "Harry W. Colmery Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944"

## REJECTED RESOLUTIONS

**Res. No. 160** (HI) — Seek legislation as would permit any honorably discharged Veteran to receive readjustment counseling services, and that appropriate outstation staffing be provided to accommodate this service.

**Res. No. 165** (PR) — Urges The American Legion to investigate the practice of using Veteran patients for scientific medical investigations

**Res. No. 265** (SC) — Support legislation to allow the elderly and disabled Veterans entitlement to outpatient medical services from VA

### Claims and Ratings

**Res. No. 15** (WY) — Sponsor and support legislation to provide a special pension program for Veterans of World War I

**Res. No. 66** (NE) — Sponsor and support legislation granting an annual exclusion of $1500 on earned and interest income for purposes of determining rates of disability and death pension or dependency and indemnity compensation received by dependent parents

**Res. No. 91** (UT) — Urges the VA to implement a special program which would assist disabled Veterans seeking employment

**Res. No. 146** (HI) — Sponsor and support legislation so as to enable disabled Veterans with at least 50% service-connected rating to receive PX and commissary privileges

**Res. No. 166** (PR) — Urges The American Legion to support the request that complimentary Social Security be extended to Puerto Rico

**Res. No. 263** (SC) — Seeks legislation to repeal PL 95-3 authorizing garnishment of disability compensation where there has been a partial waiver of military retired pay

**Res. No. 298** (MN) — Urges The American Legion to support establishment of a rate schedule for temporary disabilities

**Res. No. 350** (NJ) — Support legislation requiring the VA to discount 50% (one half) of all countable Social Security benefits received by the Veteran and his dependents or survivors for determining entitlement to VA non-service-connected pension benefits

**Res. No. 389** (TX) — Urges The American Legion to support legislation to rescind certain portions of title 38, USC (PL 98-369) pertaining to disability pension awards and death pension awards

**Res. No. 413** (Philippine Islands) — Seek legislation to repeal Section 107, 38 USC, to give equal benefits to certain Philippine Veterans

**Res. No. 414** (Philippine Islands) — Seek legislation to grant non-service-connected disability pension to certain Philippine Veterans

**Res. No. 416** (Philippine Islands) — Urges certain benefits for Philippine Scouts

### Vocational Rehabilitation and Education

**Res. No. 143** (HI) — Enact legislation to amend the eligibility

period of employment services for disabled Veterans for purposes of benefits administered under Chapter 31, Title 38, United States Code.

**Res. No. 145** (HI) — Support legislation to restore GI Bill entitlement to all honorably discharged Veterans of the Vietnam Era.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LENKER: Mr. Commander, I move the adoption of the Report.

The motion was seconded by Dan Burkhardt, Maine and carried unanimously and the Report was adopted.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Everybody join with me in saluting the Flag of our country.

The Delegates stood and saluted the Flag.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: This Convention stands in recess until 9:00 A.M. tomorrow morning.

At 2:55 P.M., the Convention recessed to reconvene the following day, August 28, 1985 at 9:00 A.M.

# THIRD DAY

## WEDNESDAY SESSION — AUGUST 28, 1985

. . . The Convention was called to order by National Commander Clarence M. Bacon, at 9 A.M.

Please stand and join with me in a right hand salute to the Colors of our country.

Ladies and gentlemen, please uncover and join with me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, then remain standing for the Invocation.

. . . The Delegates stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

### INVOCATION

**Rev. Charles G. Rice, Jr.**
**National Chaplain**

Let us pray. Almighty God, we look to Thee for guidance. You gave to the founding fathers of our blessed countries. Those who formed The American Legion followed in the way when they added to the Preamble, "For God and Country we associate ourselves together."

I borrowed some words from the Vietnam statue out here this morning. I think it very fitting for us. It was said by Jack Kennedy of blessed memory, "God have mercy on us, let every nation know, whether it wishes well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, assure us the survival and the success of liberty."

May God be with us as we do this work today. Amen.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The chair recognizes Roger A. Munson of Ohio, Chairman of the National Convention Committee on National Security for a Report.

### REPORT OF NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

**Roger A. Munson, (OH), Chairman**

At 9 A.M., Sunday, August 25, 1985, 260 Delegates and Alternates assigned to the Convention Committee on National Security met initially in Meeting Room 9, Superdome, 2nd Level. Mr. Roger Munson, Ohio, was elected Chairman and Mr. George Harvey, Michigan, was appointed Secretary.

The six authorized Convention Committees (Aerospace, Defense Civil Preparedness, Law and Order, Merchant Marine, Military Affairs and Naval Affairs) met in separate meeting rooms. An additional Ad Hoc Committee was appointed for general Security resolutions which required special attention. The following were elected Chairmen and Secretaries of the Convention Security Committees:

**Aerospace Committee**
Chairman: James E. Starr (Minnesota)
Secretary: Henry G. Jacoby (Nebraska)

**Defense Civil Preparedness Committee**
Chairman: Frank J. D'Amico (New York)
Secretary: Ray Stiles (Iowa)

**Law and Order Committee**
Chairman: Dudley Robbins (North Carolina)
Secretary: Jack M. Rainey (Virginia)

**Merchant Marine Committee**
Chairman: William D. Horan (New York)
Secretary: Vernon Hill (Washington)

**Military Affairs Committee**
Chairman: Donald D. Hildebrand (Tennessee)
Secretary: Paul E. Hackman (Iowa)

**Naval Affairs Officer**
Chairman: John J. Wrenn (Massachusetts)
Secretary: Stewart R. Kunde (Minnesota)

**General Security Ad Hoc Committee**
Chairman: David E. Munter (Illinois)
Secretary: Hazel A. Carlson (Florida)

On Sunday afternoon, August 25, the Delegates again assembled in Meeting Room 9, Superdome, 2nd Level at 2:30 P.M. for a final meeting of the Convention Committee on National Security. Reports of all Convention Committees were read and their recommended action on resolutions considered. A total of 109 resolutions were assigned to the Convention Committee on Security or prepared by the Committees to meet problems which were held to be of concern to The American Legion and germane to its principles and objectives.

The Report will be made this morning to begin with on General Security Ad Hoc Committee by its Chairman, David Munter of Illinois.

### REPORT OF GENERAL SECURITY AD HOC COMMITTEE

**Committee Chairman**
**David E. Munter, (IL):**

Because many of the Resolutions addressed major defense issues which affected all of the military departments and the future of the United States in the world, a special subcommittee was appointed to consider those resolutions. David E. Munter (IL) was appointed Chairman. The following is a summary of their action.

**Appproved Resolutions**

**Res. 40** (VT) — Consolidated with **Res. 219** (MD) **Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence Systems**

WHEREAS, Our Command authorities, both military and civilian, require timely, accurate, and unambiguous information to plan military operations and to select alternative courses of action; and

WHEREAS, All Commanders and their staffs must then be assured that the decisions and direction emanating from this information can be clearly and accurately communicated to the forces and weapons systems under their control; and

WHEREAS, Typically these systems consist of an array of sensors, communications links, command and control support facilities, and information processing and display equipment which collectively constitute a significant combat multiplier; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that C³I systems be provided that maximize the performance of our weapons systems and the opportunity of our forces in terms of survivability, endurability, inter-operability, and effectiveness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we urge the Administration and Congress to provide the necessary authorizations and appropriations for force structure improvements in the area of Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence (C³I).

**Res. 77** (MT) as amended and Consolidated with **Res. 110 (OH); 252 (PA); 291 (MN); and 321 (NY) Commending the Department of Defense in Curbing Waste, Fraud and Abuse**

WHEREAS, President Eisenhower in his farewell address on January 17, 1961, alerted the nation to the grave implications of the military-industrial complex, he said, " . . . In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together"; and

WHEREAS, Since April, 1981, the Department of Defense and the Defense Inspector General completed some 77,134 audits, resulting in a potential savings to the U.S. Government of over $9.5 billion; and

WHEREAS, Thus far, as of March 31, 1985, an aggressive audit follow-up — long the achilles heel of the audit program — 186,714 corrective actions have been completed on 59,156 DOD internal audit reports, 2,534 corrective actions on 1,213 General Accounting Office reports have been taken, and an additional 3,782 DOD and GAO reports are being tracked; and

WHEREAS, More recently increased emphasis has been placed on procurement fraud involving major DOD contractors and providers of medical care; such as, in investigation of one corporation which revealed mischarging of labor hours from one contract to another, resulting in the corporation paying $30,000 in fines, $650,000 in damages, and being barred from recovering $300,000 in legal and defense fees; and

WHEREAS, Suspensions and Debarments of contractors has risen from 179 in 1982 to 402 in fiscal year 1984; and

WHEREAS, Since DOD established a Hotline in June of 1981 to encourage reports of waste, fraud and abuse in defense programs, over 23,000 calls or letters have been received resulting in a documented savings of $3.5 million; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger, on March 5, 1985, in Washington, D.C., when telling Legionnaires of efforts by the Defense Department to reduce waste, fraud and abuse said, " . . . We have conducted massive reviews and audits to uncover problems which often, as in the case of our own spare parts study, have just opened us up for further criticism. We have expanded competition for defense contracts, increased economical multi-year production, instituted more reausitic budgeting, and thrown the book at defense contractors who defraud the taxpayer"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we commend the long overdue efforts of the Department of Defense, the Defense Inspector General, and the General Accounting Office in identifying and curbing waste, fraud and abuse, and urge even more vigorous efforts in ferreting out those, who with intent, defraud the U.S. Government; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we vigorously urge prosecution to the fullest extent of the law, those persons, who by criminal intent, defraud the U.S. Government.

**Res. 220** (MD) — Consolidated with **Res. 8 (AZ); 9 (AZ); 39 (VT); 79 (MT); and 257 (PA) Strategic Defense Initiatives**

WHEREAS, For more than three decades U.S. national security has depended on the deterrent effect of our strategic forces (MAD); and

WHEREAS, The Soviets continue to increase their nuclear advantage with the obvious intent to arrive at a level where blackmail is inevitable; and

WHEREAS, A new nuclear strategy is long overdue that does not hold our people hostage in case of nuclear war; and

WHEREAS, President Reagan, in his historic address to the nation on March 23, 1983, announced a national commitment to strategic defense initiatives — a technology research effort to develop a base for informed future decisions about strategic defense; and

WHEREAS, Under existing treaties, the Soviets have built an extensive aid defense and anti-ballistic missile system, the so-called Moscow ABM system providing protection to substantial portions of Western USSR containing about 75% of the Soviet population and industry and a substantial portion of Soviet military capabilities; and

WHEREAS, The Soviets have used the period since the ABM treaty to greatly increase the ABM capabilities by an all-out research and development program which might or might not violate the aforementioned treaty; and

WHEREAS, We have dismantled our system and an adequate latitude exists for substantial AMB efforts utilizing present and readily foreseeable technologies; and

WHEREAS, A continued effort in this area is feasible and practical extending into space as visualized by the President in the future; and

WHEREAS, The President's commission on Strategic Forces (Scowcroft Commission) stated that, "Vigorous research and development on ABM technologies — including in particular, ways to sharpen the effectiveness of treaty-limited AMB systems with new types of nuclear systems and also ways to use non-nuclear systems — are imperative to avoid technological surprise from the Soviets;" and

WHEREAS, All efforts toward strengthening our defense will continue to be challenged by those who promote a posture of unilateral disarmament orchestrated wittingly or unwittingly by the intelligence activities of the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, The results of our efforts are plainly understood by the Soviets in that former Soviet Premier Andropov said in Izvestia (March 27) and Pravada (March 28) that he would rely on the "peace movement" — the nuclear freeze movement — in the West to sabotage President Reagan's initiative; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we applaud the President's proposed change in the national strategy of deterrence from one of mutually assured destruction from nuclear weapons, to a strategy of protecting our population through defensive measures; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge Congress to support the President's initiatives in re-establishing our anti-missile system effort using all latitudes available including the existing ABM treaties; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That vigorous research and development be undertaken to increase our anti-ballistic missile capability using all techniques, including space, as these techniques can be developed.

**Res. 221 (MD) — Consolidated with Res. 320 (NY) and Res. 336 (VA) National Defense**

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes it is the paradox of peace that to preserve it we must be prepared to use force and use it successfully; and

WHEREAS, Only if we can convince any potential adversary that the cost of aggression would be far higher than any possible benefit can we be certain that aggression will be deterred and peace preserved; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union's military buildup, both quantitative and qualitative, has produced a major shift in the nuclear and conventional balance; and

WHEREAS, The United States has made a conscious choice to restrict its strategic nuclear force development in an effort to encourage similar restraints from the Soviets; instead they aggressively stepped up their strategic nuclear program and show no signs of slowing; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union, in the area of conventional forces, had long held an overall quantitative advantage but in recent years that advantage has widened in almost all categories as major weapons are being produced at rates exceeding those of the United States and its NATO allies combined; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union's military posture has become increasingly offensive in orientation and they have significantly expanded the global reach of their military forces, enhancing their ability to project influence and power; and

WHEREAS, The expansion of Soviet military might and their willingness to use it as demonstrated in their invasion of Afghanistan has upset the balance of power that kept the peace between the superpowers; and

WHEREAS, The President has requested a defense budget authority to Fiscal Year 1986 of 313.7 billion; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we call upon the Congress to support the President's Five Year Defense Plan (Fiscal year 1986-90) based upon a policy of peace through strength thereby ensuring a continued national defense posture of readiness, sustainability and modernization.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MUNTER: This concludes the Report of the General Security Ad Hoc Committee.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MUNSON: Thank you, David. We will skip over the Aerospace for a moment if you're following your Resolutions in this book, and go to Defense Preparedness Committee, Frank J. D'Amico, New York, Chairman.

## DEFENSE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

### Frank J. D'Amico (NY) Chairman

### Approved Resolutions

**Res. 189** (IN) as amended — **Civil Defense Program**

WHEREAS, We recognize that hurricanes, tornados, floods, earthquakes, fires, and other natural disasters are inevitable; and

WHEREAS, Protecting lives and valuable resources in peacetime through a comprehensive civil defense system that will also function in time of war is a reasonable, sensible, and cost effective approach that merits our full support; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear parity and disparity exists between the Soviet Union and the United States; parity in nuclear weapons and active defense, and disparity in active air defenses and passive defense to include civil defense; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union gives undivided attention to the task of protecting the population under conditions of modern warfare and recognizes civil defense as a vital part of military strategy; and

WHEREAS, Outside the Soviet Union their officials "advise" Americans and others that civil defense, which they develop assiduously at home, is useless; and

WHEREAS, Our determination to survive as a nation deserves a positive pursuit and implementation of a civil defense system that would affect the survival of individuals and as a nation, now; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we urge the President and Congress and the Department of Defense of the United States to:

(1) Recognize that civil defense in this nuclear age is as important as the weapons of war and that failure of the United States to have a credible civil defense system could lead to a miscalculation by any potential adversary; and

(2) Give increased funds, support and assistance to the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

(3) Restock shelters and warehouses with survival food, and rotate those stocks when responding to requests for assistance from natural disasters around the world; and

(4) Re-institute public and private works program that will provide jobs while providing civilian protection, to include underground and in mountain facilities; and

(5) Support the President's revitalized civil defense program to improve our total defense posture.

(6) That we strongly support and aggressively pursue additional funding by the Congress to broaden the Civil Defense Program with proper funding for increased warning systems and training programs for the communities across the nation.

## LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE

### Dudley Robbins (NC) Chairman

Mr. Commander, 52 Delegates of the Law and Order Committee met and discussed ten resolutions and of their business.

### APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

**Res. 59** (NE) as amended **Urging National American Legion to Establish a National Junior Law Cadet "Law & Order" Program**

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in cooperation with the Nebraska State Patrol, initiated a Junior Law Cadet "Law & Order" program for high school students in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Each of the annual Nebraska Junior Law Cadet "Law & Order" programs have proven successful and beneficial to high school students throughout the state of Nebraska whereby they have derived a better understanding of the evils of crime and the problems associated with law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, Law & Order Committee has proposed that a National Junior Law Cadet "Law & Order" program be initiated by the National organization of The American Legion in cooperation with law enforcement agencies whereby two or more participants from each of the Department Junior Law Cadet "Law & Order" programs be selected to attend a National Junior Law Cadet "Law & Order" program for approximately a one week duration; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that

the National Organization of The American Legion in cooperation with law enforcement agencies make a feasibility study of a national Junior law cadet "Law & Order" program to stimulate respect for law enforcement, patriotic, and responsible citizenship.

**Res. 362** (VA) Consolidated with **Res. 69 (MT); 97 (DC); 259 (PA); 280 (MO); 290 (MN); 324 (NY); 388 (TX); and 403 (MI) Espionage**

WHEREAS, There have been recent cases of unauthorized disclosure of classified information to the Soviet Union which seriously damages the national security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Such treacherous and abhorrent acts reflect the most reprehensible conduct on the part of citizens of the United States and should be subjected to the most severe penalties; and

WHEREAS, There appears to be an excessively large number of individuals who presently hold security clearances granting them access to classified information; and

WHEREAS, It appears that some of the security clearances were granted without adequate background investigations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we support legislation which adds the offense of espionage during the time of peace to United States criminal law and the United States Uniform Code of Military Justice and subjects perpetrators of such offenses to penalty of death; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That systems be developed to assure that the number of security clearances be reduced to the absolute minimum, consistent with U.S. national security needs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all suitable means of technology, including polygraph tests, be used to the fullest possible extent to uncover on going cases of espionage, deter commission of espionage, and identify those who have committed espionage against the United States or are likely to do so; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That in cases where there are convictions of espionage in peace time, that there be included among the penalties, therefore, the death penalty.

### REJECTED RESOLUTIONS

**Res. 10** (AZ) **National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year**

Mr. Commander, that concludes the report of the Law and Order Committee.

### MERCHANT MARINE COMMITTEE

**William D. Horan (NY) Chairman**

#### Approved Resolutions

**Res. 275** (WA) Consolidated with **Res. 217 (MD) and 365 (VA) Modernize the U.S. Merchant Marine Fleet**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has, over the years, urged the revitalization of American privately owned and operated merchant marine; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet Union has the necessary merchant vessels to dominate any economic market, and for supporting military operations, and serve as an integrated part of the Russian defense system; and

WHEREAS, Russia has the flexibility of its merchant fleet to support their economic, political and military goals; and

WHEREAS, The United States is the world's largest trading nation, more than three times that of the Soviets, and twice of Japan, yet it handles less than 4% on American ships, while Russia carries almost 60% of its own trade; and

WHEREAS, The shortage of modern U.S. flagships would be extremely difficult if not impossible to support U.S. forces against Soviet military aggression, and

WHEREAS, The U.S. cannot rely on the approximately 350 U.S.-owned ships registered with foreign countries and manned by foreign crews, to be available in an emergency; and

WHEREAS, Over regulating, pricing and taxing, the U.S. maritime industry is seriously handicapped in handling our own trade as well as meeting foreign competition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we urge the U.S. Government, in cooperation with labor and management, to rebuild the U.S. merchant marine to its former position as second to none in the world, under the Merchant Marine Act of 1970.

**Res. 419** (Committee) **Support for Government Impelled Cargo Preference**

WHEREAS, The purpose of the passage of the 1954 Cargo Preference Statute was to aid and promote the U.S. flag merchant fleet as being vital to the commercial and national security interest of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Government impelled cargo preference programs are perceived as necessary to a continuing strong U.S. flag merchant fleet. If an adequate supply of U.S. flag vessels is not available for transportation of agricultural, commercial and needed materials necessary for defense in a world emergency, the interests of the United States, including those of the agricultural community, will be seriously impaired; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we oppose any legislation denying government impelled cargo preference to the American merchant marine as has already been approved by the Cargo Preference Act of 1954 and other similar legislation.

#### Referred Resolutions

The following Resolutions were referred to the Standing Commission on National Security.

**Resolution 208** (MD) **Arapaho Project (Merchant Marine)**

Mr. Commander, that concludes the report of the Merchant Marine Committee.

### MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Donald D. Hildebrand (TN) Chairman**

#### Approved Resolutions

**Res. 41** (VT) Consolidated with **Res. 76 (MT); 100 (DC) and 187 (IN) Military Retirement System**

WHEREAS, The military retirement system is linked with both the force management requirements and the compensation system for the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, The military retirement system exists to serve the following vital needs;

(a) To provide for a uniform flow of personnel through the personnel structure in order to maintain a young, vigorous and effective force capable of operating both in times of peace and war;

(b) To recognize the long-term voluntary acceptance of highly restricted disciplined and controlled career in a society where others enjoy greater individual freedoms, and to recognize the arduous nature of duty in the uniformed services;

(c) To maintain a mobilization base of experienced personnel who can be rapidly recalled to active duty;

(d) To provide for the long-term financial security of career military members, and

(e) To recognize that the personnel system is a closed entry system where mid and senior grade careerists leaving the system normally can only be replaced by new, entry level accessions; and

WHEREAS, The military retirement system is related to other retirement systems only to meet the objectives of an institutional or corporate entity; and

WHEREAS, In the period of 1980-84, Congress without benefit of public hearings or consideration of the impact on the active force, escalated the rapidity with which piece-meal changes to the retirement system were made — all apparently driven by budgetary concerns; and

WHEREAS, The President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control (Grace Commission) has recommended radical changes to the military retirement system which if enacted would severely impact on retention of skilled and experienced personnel; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we believe the current retirement pay system is adequate and meets the goals of force management within the Armed Forces; and be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion insists that any contemplated changes in the retirement system must adhere to the following principles:

(a) The retirement system must be fair to both the service member and the taxpayer; it must be adequate to attract but primarily to retain the number of quality and experienced personnel required to perform the services' missions;

(b) The system must be stable to permit the individual service member to satisfactorily plan for the future; however, recognizing that future changes may be necessary, these changes should apply to new service entrants while at the same time honoring commitments to those serving and already retired;

(c) The retirement annuity should be indexed to protect its future purchasing power; the same index should apply to all forms of service retirement and the survivor benefits based on the retiree annuity;

(d) The retirement system must include an optional method for a retiree to provide for survivors; and

(e) The retirement system must provide for equitable treatment for all service members entitled to the retirement benefit.

**Res. 44** (MA) as amended **Sponsor Legislation to Designate the Name of Tomb of The Unknown in Arlington National Cemetery**

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States has not graced the final burial ground of our unknown war dead with proper and permanent name; and

WHEREAS, It has either been referred to as the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" or the "Tomb of the Unknown"; and

WHEREAS, Naming of the Tomb of the Unknown would not take from the hallowed ground, but would create an "official designation"; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that legislation be sponsored in the Congress of the United States to officially designate the Tomb of the Unknown Armed Forces personnel with an appropriate name that would recognize the supreme sacrifice of all armed forces personnel.

**Resolution 47** (MA) as amended and Consolidated with **Res. 17 (SD); 23 (ND); 70 (MT); 127 (IL); 244 (OK); 289 (MN); 306 (GA) and 344 (WI) Educational Assistance for Apprenticeships and On-The-Job Training**

WHEREAS, The recently enacted Veterans Educational Act of 1984 does not provide for apprenticeship and/or on-the-job training; and

WHEREAS, Since 1944 literally hundreds of thousands of veterans have received some form of training under the G.I. Bill; and

WHEREAS, Historically, apprenticeship and/or on-the-job training is accepted as the most successful method of training job recipients; and

WHEREAS, Many areas of skill and training development are not available via an educational institution except through apprenticeship; and

WHEREAS, Most employers require a satisfactory period of education and on-the-job training as part of the employment; and

WHEREAS, A high percentage of high school graduates do not desire to go to college but do desire to continue their education; and

WHEREAS, The cost of on-the-job training apprenticeship has been historically more effective than other forms of skill training; and

WHEREAS, Benefits accruing to American business and industry have been substantial; and

WHEREAS, The need is present as pointed out by enactment of P.L. 98-77 "Emergency Veterans Job Training Act of 1983"; and

WHEREAS, In the interest of fairness for those not desiring institutional education would be best served; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that they urge Congressional support of an amendment to Chapter 30 Title 38, U.S. Code of Veterans Benefits (a.k.a. Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 1984) to include apprenticeship on-the-job training.

**Res. 75** (MT) **Support of Army and Marine Corps Land Forces**

WHEREAS, The land force of the United States — the Army and Marine Corps — occupy a central place in our conventional force planning and as our only combat force capable of holding or retaking territory, they are key to our deterrent strength and forward-defense capabilities; and

WHEREAS, In support of their deterrent role, Army divisions are stationed in Europe and the Western Pacific, Marine Amphibious forces are deployed at sea and a reservoir of rapidly deployable forces — both Army and Marine — are maintained in the United States; and

WHEREAS, For our land forces to provide the capabilities we need, they must be structured properly, able to respond quickly, capable of sustained combat, and provided with modern weaponry and equipment; and

WHEREAS, The fiscal years 1986-90 program continues a major and long-overdue modernization of land forces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we urge the Administration and Congress to support the Army and Marine Corps efforts of modernizing the United States land forces by providing necessary authorization and funding.

**Res. 101** (DC) as amended **New Visitors Center at Arlington National Cemetery**

WHEREAS, Arlington National Cemetery is, indeed, a national shrine wherein rest "in honored glory" American Servicemen who made the supreme sacrifice during World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam who are "Known but to God"; and

WHEREAS, Legions of our departed comrades rest in the "bivouac of the dead"; and

WHEREAS, The existing "temporary" visitors center was completed in 1970, with a life expectancy of five years, and this facility has deteriorated to the point where it is both an eyesore and

incapable of properly accommodating the thousands of daily visitors; and

WHEREAS, The present location of the "temporary" visitors center interferes with dignified burials and ceremonial activities of the cemetery; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, concept designs for a new visitors center were submitted to the National Capital Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, none of which were funded by the Office of Management and Budget; and

WHEREAS, $400,000 has been provided for the design specifications for a new visitors center at Arlington National Cemetery for fiscal year 1985; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we urge the Subcommittee on HUD and Independent Agencies of both the Senate and House Appropriations Committees to include additional funds in the amount of $8 million in the fiscal year 1986 and a sum of $9 million in the fiscal year 1987 appropriation for completion of construction of a new visitors center at Arlington National Cemetery to honor with proper dignity our fallen comrades.

**Res. 102** (DC) **Support the Department of Defense Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Program**

WHEREAS, The DOD has established the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Control program for the entire DOD family; and

WHEREAS, The Congress recognizes that substance abuse is a problem in the DOD family; and

WHEREAS, Alcoholism is a disease which affects health, job performance, public safety, and family well-being; and

WHEREAS, Drinking and driving are increasingly being recognized as a problem in our society and that we will all need to further our education and to take a look at our behaviour in this regard; and

WHEREAS, Drinking problems are frequently covered up because of the myth that identifying the alcoholic will only hurt him or her; and

WHEREAS, Our young people are exposed to alcohol and drugs at an early age and can develop problems in this regard; and

WHEREAS, Help is available for all members of the DOD family through the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Program (ADPCP) either directly or indirectly through referral in accordance with DOD regulations; and

WHEREAS, A recovered alcoholic can be a fully functioning member of the DOD; and

WHEREAS, The ADAPCP needs Congressional support and funding; how, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that the Congress of the United States support the DOD Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Program so that the members of the Armed Services can get much needed help and assistance prior to urgent legal, health and family problems, thus improving combat readiness.

**Res. 188** (IN) **Selective Service System**

WHEREAS, The Selective Service System has only 276 full-time employees and relies upon a Reserve force as the System's primary mobilization reconstitution asset; and

WHEREAS, The Selective Service System's Reserve force presently consists of only 728 personnel as opposed to the force of 1,336 maintained in earlier years; and

WHEREAS, This Reserve force must be capable beginning one day after a mobilization is ordered, of expanding the Selective Service national headquarters and six regional headquarters to meet mobilization requirements, and establishing 55 state headquarters and 436 area offices, and of providing liaison officers to each of the 68 Military Entrance Processing Stations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we urge the Administration and the Congress to authorize and appropriate sufficient funds for the Selective Service System to expand its Reserve force program at a rate consistent with sound personnel management practices until an adequate force is achieved.

**Res. 190** (IN) Consolidated with **Res. 80 (MT) and 404 (MI) Support Total Force Policy**

WHEREAS, Under the Total Force Policy, the Reserve Components have assumed an increasingly important role in our conventional defense strategy; and

WHEREAS, The creation of the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs recognizes the critical role the Reserve Component forces would play in any conventional conflict; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary that our Reserve Components be equipped with the latest weapon systems on a "first-to-fight, first-to-be-equipped" basis if they are to be effective; and

WHEREAS, Current programs call for increased manning, training and readiness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we call upon Congress to authorize and fund the most modern weapons systems for use by the Reserve Components; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge Congress to authorize and fund the Reserve Components so as to provide sufficient recruiting and retention incentives to fully man units at the authorized wartime levels in order that they may accomplish their missions in the event of war.

**Res. 208** (MD) as amended **ARAPAHO Project (Army)**

WHEREAS, The Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives, The U.S. Army should begin exploring the ARAPAHO system; and

WHEREAS, The newly formed Light Divisions will require radically improved sustainability, mobility, force flexibility, and deployment readiness on short notice to an unpredictable variety of locations and situations; and

WHEREAS, Air deployment of adequate resources for successful engagement is dependent on prior securing of suitable landing areas; and

WHEREAS, The ARAPAHO portable air facility has proven feasible in tests by the U.S. Navy and so stated by SECNAV; and

WHEREAS, The ARAPAHO, currently on lease to the British Royal Navy, has proven its utility in the evacuation from Beirut of both military and civilian personnel, and is now serving in the Falklands; and

WHEREAS, ARAPAHO can be quickly transported and assembled ashore to provide an instant aviation shore base which can be quickly dismantled and removed for future use; and

WHEREAS, ARAPAHO is easily transportable by standard truck or train transport modes, by cargo aircraft, or fully assembled and functional, on the decks of commerical ships; and

WHEREAS, ARAPAHO is extremely cost effective and versatile and available hulls in the Maritime Administration's Reserve Fleet obviate the need for new ship construction; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that the Army continue to explore the ARAPHO concept by adequate funding and program expansion for the portable deck-mounted aviation support system to accommoodate Army requirements.

**Res. 218** (MD) Consolidated with **Res. 264 (SC) Military Draft**

WHEREAS, Twelve years have lapsed since the United States initiated the effort to meet its military manpower requirements through the concept of an all volunteer force (AVF) with a standby Selective Service System theoretically capable of quick reactivation to provide in an emergency; and

WHEREAS, Several underlying assumptions on which those manpower policies were based have changed since the AVF began in 1973; i.e., as stated by the Senate Armed Services Committee: "Soviet military capabilities have increased substantially in terms of quality and quantity of manpower; quantity of sophistication of materials; command control, communications and intelligence capabilities"; and

WHEREAS, All services are, at the moment, reaching their active duty manpower quotas, however, uncertainty for the future prevails with demographic decreases in manpower and an expanding economy; and

WHEREAS, The costs associated with keeping people in uniform have continued to rise in spite of the increases in monetary support for active duty service people, and

WHEREAS, We Americans find it difficult to believe that the problem can be resolved simply by throwing more money at it; and

WHEREAS, Frequent overseas deployments and non-competitive compensation have brought pressures on career personnel that continue to drive them from the ranks in substantial numbers seriously depleting the level of professionalism through the services; and

WHEREAS, The system brings service to the country back into proper national perspective which history has shown to be successful as a substitute for the citizen's direct involvement in his destiny in Selective Service; and

WHEREAS, Any operative Selective Service plan must be completely fair and equitable selection for all concerned; and

WHEREAS, The Military Selective Service Act, as amended, provides a fair and equitable selection system under which 95% of our young, physically qualified men have an equal opportunity to be considered for military service through a lottery system with the stringent controls over deferments; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we support a military draft program as the source of personnel to meet the manpower requirements of our total armed forces.

**Res. 343** (WI) as amended **National Guard and Reserve Employer Support**

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States has passed legislation (Chapter 43 of Part III, Title 38, U.S. Code) to provide protection to individuals who leave their employers to enter military service; and

WHEREAS, Currently there are no Federal laws that prohibit employers from discriminating against members of the National Guard and Reserves in the selection process; and

WHEREAS, While employers cannot discriminate against a potential employee on the basis of sex, race, creed, sexual orientation or age, they can establish quotas or not select Reservists or members of the National Guard because of their continuing military obligation; and

WHEREAS, Without establishing laws to provide protection in hiring for members of the National Guard and Reserves the security of our nation will be jeopardized by individuals deciding not to join the guard or reserve; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we go on record requesting that legislation be introduced to prohibit discrimination in hiring by employers because of an individual's membership in the National Guard or Reserves.

**Res. 348** (NJ) as amended **Former Spouses Protection Laws**

WHEREAS, The American Legion is dedicated to the men and women who valiantly served their country's call during time of war; and

WHEREAS, Several Public Laws now provide that courts may treat disposable retired or retainer pay payable to a member for pay periods beginning after June 25, 1981, either as property solely of the member or **as property of the member and his spouse** in accordance with the law of the jurisdiction of such court; and

WHEREAS, Allowing the state courts to treat the disposable retired or retainer pay of a member as the property of the member and his spouse, will result in the **integration of the retired or retainer pay into the property settlement**, thus, barring the court from considering the importance of the retired or retainer pay in meeting the financial needs of the member at the time of the divorce, dissolution, annulment, or legal separation or at any future time; and

WHEREAS, Laws specifying reapportionment **do not** equitably provide for the divison of the retired or retainer pay, based upon the services which were rendered to this nation by the retired member, nor in consideration of the responsibilities which are mandated by law, and which will remain the exclusive responsibility of the retired member; and

WHEREAS, All persons retired from the Armed Forces for longevity and/or disability remain subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ); and

WHEREAS, The spouses and ex-spouses of retired members of the Armed Forces are not subject to the UCMJ: and

WHEREAS, The continued receipt of military retired pay is contingent upon remaining available for further service to the United States throughout the life of the retired member of the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Armed Forces retired pay is reduced compensation for reduced services; and

WHEREAS, The apportionment of Armed Forces retired pay violates the concept of equal pay for equal work; and

WHEREAS, The non-military spouse is not subject to the UCMJ or required to remain available for continued service; and

WHEREAS, The treatment of the disposable retired or retainer pay of a member as property of the member and his spouse, must necessarily result in payments which **will never terminate** except upon the date of death of the member or the date of the death of the spouse or former apouse to whom the payments are being made, which ever occurs first, and must necessarily result in payments which **will not terminate** even upon the remarriage of the former spouse; and

WHEREAS, The granting to the state courts the right to treat the disposable retired or retainer pay of the member as property of the member and his spouse, without regard to the present or future financial needs of the member; to be used as lifetime payments to the former spouse, even after the spouse remarries; and to be divided without regard for the services which the retired member rendered to this nation, nor for the continuing obligations which are mandated by law of each retired member is grossly **inequitable and unfair**; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that legislation to repeal all laws which divide, seeks to divide, redistributes, seeks to redistribute or in any way reapportions the retired pay of a former member of the Armed Forces; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we support legislation to repeal all laws

which requires and/or seeks to require the permission of a spouse in order not to participate in any plan, program and/or activity that results in any type of Armed Forces retirement pay being set aside; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That we oppose all attempts to apportion Armed Services retirement pay received whether for disability or longevity.

**Received and Recorded Resolutions**

The following Resolutions were Received and Recorded:

**Res. 12** (AZ) Existing Policy Resolution 74, 66th National Convention — **Chemical Warfare Defense**

**Res. 78** (MT) Existing Policy Resolution 130, 66th National Convention — **Military Commissary Operations**

**Res. 82** (MT) Existing Policy Resolution 74, 66th National Convention — **Chemical Warfare Defense**

**Res. 191** (IN) Existing Policy Resolution 550, 66th National Convention — **Military Quarters Allowance**

**Res. 192** (IN) Existing Policy Resolution 74, 66th National Convention — **Chemical Warfare Defense**

**Res. 274** (WA) Existing Policy Resolution 61, 66th National Convention — **Rapid Deployment Forces**

**Referred Resolutions**

The following Resolutions were Referred to the Standing Commission on National Security:

**Res. 131** (IL) **Oppose any change in the present applicability of the UCMJ Jurisdiction to the National Guard and other reserve components when not in federal service under Title 10 U.S.C.**

**Res. 186** (IN) **Include Amtrak in 1987 Federal Budget**

**Res. 334** (CA) **Support legislation on Philippine Scouts Benefits**

**Res. 408** (PI) **Recogaition of Philippine Commonwealth Army Veterans**

**Res. 409** (PI) **Allow Filipino citizens to enlist in U.S. Armed Forces**

**Res. 410** (PI) **Old Philippine Scouts Military Pay**

**Res. 411** (PI) **Wartime service of Philippine Scouts**

**Rejected Resolutions**

The following Resolutions were Rejected:

**Res. 81** (MT) **OMB Statement**

**Res. 133** (IL) **The American Legion's National Guard Medal**

**Res. 134** (IL) **Oppose closing the O'Hare Air Force Facility, and Great Lakes Naval Training Center**

**Res. 135** (IL) **Continue operation of the Great Lakes Naval Training Station and O'Hare Air Reserve Forces Facilities in Illinois**

**Res. 241** (OK) **Military Retirement System**

**Res. 242** (OK) **Military Retirement System**

**Res. 243** (OK) **Military Retirement System**

**Res. 282** (PR) **Build a Hydroport in Puerto Rico**

Mr. Chairman, this concludes the report of the Military Affairs Committee.

**NAVAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**John J. Wrenn (MA) Chairman**

**Approved Resolutions**

**Res. 213** (MD) **Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Force**

WHEREAS, The mission of the Reserve Naval Mobile Construction Force is to provide and maintain a trained, ready, and an immediate available organization Reserve Force; and

WHEREAS, This force must be capable of satisfying the requirements of the Navy construction force to form viable, mobile construction battalions, regiments and brigade staffs; and

WHEREAS, These units provide direct support to Fleet Commanders and executing their wartime mission; and

WHEREAS, The Chief of Naval Reserve has initiated action to improve the Force Mix by the addition of two battalions; and

WHEREAS, The onboard equipment required for mobilization is not available; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we encourage the Department of the Navy to program and fund for full equipment allowances and mission capability for these Reserve missions.

**Res. 364** (VA) as amended and Consolidated with **Res. 215 (MD) Increased Appropriations for U.S. Coast Guard**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Coast Guard budget has suffered in constant dollars an overall 12 percent reduction in fiscal year 1985 and an additional 3.9 percent in fiscal year 1986; and

WHEREAS, These reductions are unacceptable to an organization which has traditionally been underfunded, in spite of its multitude of critical defense and peacetime functions; and

WHEREAS, The Authorization Act of 1985 and 1986 set a floor of 39,150 active duty personnel but the fiscal year 1986 budget funds only 38,220, which includes the 157 Public Health Service Doctors, which is a reduction of 1,087; and

WHEREAS, The fiscal year 1986 budget calls for $43,000,000 or 12.4 percent reduction in new acquisitions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we support increased material and personnel funding for the U.S. Coast Guard as a matter of urgent national necessity.

**Received and Recorded Resolutions**

The following Resolutions were Received and Recorded:

**Res. 83** (MT) Existing Policy **Resolution 388,** 66th National Convention **Modernize the U.S. Navy**

**Res. 84** (MT) Existing Policy **Resolution 475,** 66th National Convention **Modernize the U.S. Coast Guard**

**Res. 212** (MD) Existing Policy **Resolution 388,** 66th National Convention **Modernize the U.S. Navy**

**Res. 214** (MD) Existing Policy **Resolution 475** 66th National Convention **Modernize the U.S. Coast Guard**

**Res. 363** (VA) Existing Policy **Resolution 388,** 66th National Convention **Modernize the U.S. Navy**

**Referred Resolutions**

The following Resolutions were Referred to the Standing Commission on National Security:

**Res. 211** (MD) **Reserve Mobile Van AMCM Support Units**

**Res. 216** (MD) **U.S. Marine Corps Modernization**

Mr. Commander, that is the report of the Naval Affairs Committee.

**AEROSPACE COMMITTEE**

**James. E. Starr (MN) Chairman**

**Approved Resolutions**

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**Res. 11** (AZ) as amended and Consolidated with **Res. 39 (UT); 73 (MT); 210 (MD); 255 (PA) Peacekeeper Missile**

WHEREAS, The mission of Peacekeeper is to insure that deterrence is maintained by restoring to our ICBM force the capability to credibly threaten those hardened assets which the Soviets value most; and

WHEREAS, The Peacekeeper Missile is a critical element of a carefully designed program and will help ensure effective deterrence and provide the necessary foundation for meaningful arms negotiations and reductions; and

WHEREAS, The pace and scope of Soviet ICBM developments and SILO hardening efforts in recent years have eroded the capability of current U.S. ICBM systems and caused a destabilizing imbalance between U.S. and Soviet strategic forces; and

WHEREAS, The Soviet buildup of nuclear weapons continues, with development of several new intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) including the SS-X-24 and SS-X-25 — which is believed will be deployed both in silos and on mobile launchers over the next few years; and

WHEREAS, The Soviets have consistently and systematically violated current Arms Control Agreements; and

WHEREAS, The current Administration has been accused of lack of movement on new Arms Control Agreements, while it is the Soviets who have failed to participate in negotiations; and

WHEREAS, The President's Commission on Strategic Forces (Scowcroft Commission) has concluded that: deployment of 100 MXs is essential in order to remove the Soviet advantage in ICBM capability and to help deter the threat of conventional or limited nuclear attacks on the alliance. Such deployment is also necessary to encourage the Soviets to move toward the more stable regime of arms control; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that The American Legion urge our Congressional Representatives to appropriate without delay the necessary funds for the procurement and deployment of as a minimum 100 MX "Peacekeeper" missiles.

**Res. 72** (MT) Consolidated with **Res. 209 (MD) and 256 (PA) B1-B Bomber and Advanced Technology Bomber (ATB)**

WHEREAS, Over the past several decades, the modernization of U.S. strategic forces has not kept pace with the relentless growth of Soviet nuclear capabilities, and our deterrent posture has eroded so that we now face a formidable challenge; and

WHEREAS, An announced comprehensive plan for modernizing our strategic forces includes production of the B-1B bomber in the 1980s while we pursue vigorous development of an advanced technology bomber (ATB) Stealth aircraft for deployment during the 1990s; and

WHEREAS, The cost of maintaining the aging B-52s through the 1990s to the year 2000, including the modifications and essential improvements, would exceed the entire cost of the B-1B program; and

WHEREAS, The B-1B bomber is strategically not just an interim bomber, but a highly versatile aircraft that can function well into the 21st century, and when the Stealth is deployed, can then serve as cruise missile carriers, replacing the B-52s; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense stated that the B-1B can be built for the projected cost of $20.5 billion because the engineering is complete, the design is mature and tested, and the basic plane has undergone almost 2000 hours of highly successful flight testing; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we support the President's decision to produce the B-1B bomber now, followed by the eventual introduction of the ATV because it is a militarily sound and cost-effective contribution to our nation's strategic force modernization program to improve our nuclear deterrent posture.

**Res. 318** (NY) Consolidated with **Res. 208 (MD) and 254 (PA) C-17 Aircraft**

WHEREAS, Current airlift enhancement programs, including C-5B and KC-10 acquisition, will satisfy only a portion of the existing inter-theater airlift shortfall; and

WHEREAS, There is a continuing need for additional inter-theater airlife capability including outsize cargo capability; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Army's development of units that are more easily air transportable, such as light infantry divisions, may increase the requirements for responsive airlifts; and

WHEREAS, The C-17 will be able to operate in both the inter and intra-theater roles, will augment the C-130s and will replace the C-141s as they begin to retire in the 1990's; and

WHEREAS, Continued development and procurement of the C-17 is necessary to address these critical airlift requirements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 26, 27, 28, 1985, that we urge the Department of Defense, the Congress and the President to expedite development and procurement of the C-17 which will increase and modernize the airlift capabilities of the U.S. Air Force.

**Received and Recorded Resolutions**

The following Resolutions were Received and Recorded:

**Res. 207** (MD) Existing Policy **Resolution 262,** 66th National Convention **Modernize the United States Air Force**

**Res. 253** (PA) Existing Policy **Resolution 262,** 66th National Convention **Modernize the United States Air Force**

Mr. Chairman, that concludes the report of the Aerospace Committee.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MUNSON: One Hundred and ninety-eight years ago, the framers of our constitution empowered the Congress to raise and support Armed Forces. The progress made in the very recent past reflects the leadership, understanding, support, and cooperation of the Congress and the nation. To prepare our Armed Forces for the next century, will demand continued solid support.

These past few months have seen that support slip significantly. The American Legion must work hard to restore our nation's resolve to "provide for the common defense".

Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger will be with us later this morning. His efforts along with those of most Americans to rearm America are not merely critical — they may well insure our survival.

I, and the delegates assigned to the Convention Committee, are firmly convinced that the resolutions you are about to pass, coupled with the resolutions adopted at the 66th National Convention in Salt Lake City, reflect that strong resolve to keep our great nation at peace, through preparedness.

Mr. Commander, as a duly authorized Delegate to this Convention I move for the approval of this report.

. . . The motion was seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: We have a motion and a second to adopt the report. Any questions on the motion? The Chair recognizes microphone 5.

DELEGATE JOHN HEIN, NEW JERSEY: Comrade Commander, John Hein, a Delegate from New Jersey. The New Jersey delegation respectfully requests that Resolution 44 from Massachusetts as recommended by the Military Affairs Committee to

designate the name of the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington National Cemetery be set aside for further consideration and discussion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: All right. The Chair recognizes microphone 4.

DELEGATE ROY B. KOENEMAN, ILLINOIS: Roy Koeneman, I am Chairman of the delegation from Illinois. We ask that Resolutions No. 134 and 135 be set aside for separate consideration.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: All right, 134 and 135 are set aside. Any other discussion? All in favor of adopting the report, with the exceptions of setting aside Resolutions 44, 134 and 135, signify by the sign of aye; opposed. The ayes have it, it is carried.

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MUNSON: Resolution No. 44, sponsored legislation to designate the name of Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington National Cemetery, the resolved clause reads as follows: "Resolved, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled, that legislation be sponsored in the Congress of the United States to officially designate the Tomb of the Unknown Armed Forces personnel with an appropriate name that would recognize the supreme sacrifice of all Armed Forces personnel."

It is my understanding that instead of approving this Resolution the delegation would like to have this Resolution referred to the Standing Commission for further consideration. I have no problem with that, Mr. Commander, so I move its referral.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: We have a motion to refer Resolution No. 44. Do I hear a second?

. . . The motion was seconded.

We have a motion and a second to refer. Microphone 5.

DELEGATE WARREN R. DAVIES, NEW JERSEY: Comrade Commander, Warren Davies, a Delegate from New Jersey. Many years ago I remember my dad and mother taking me back to the place of my birth in Washington for the purpose of seeing many historical places that make up the heritage of this great country of ours. One of the many places we visited was the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. My dad was very proud to take me to visit this quiet spot, as he was not a veteran but he did believe in the sacrifices that were made by the unknown serviceman as was done by all those now laid to rest in the great cemetery.

Many years later I had the great honor of going to Washington at the invitation of The American Legion to be a part of the interment of the unknown servicemen of World War II and Korea. Over the many years, and even today, this hallowed spot in Arlington National Cemetery has always been to me the Tomb of the Unknown. As this great country of ours gets older it appears that the many traditions we grew up to believe in as a part of our heritage are slowly being changed or disappearing altogether. I am sure there are many of us here in this room today who were brought up to honor the name of that memorial in Washington as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, but as we got older and younger veterans came along and we interred the World War II, Korea and Vietnam servicemen, we came to call it the Tomb of the Unknowns.

I feel, as my Department does, Mr. Commander, that we should stop fooling with things that have been a part of our growing up. As said yesterday by the Delegate from Tennessee, "If it is not broke don't fix it." Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Any other discussions?

All those in favor referring Resolution No. 44 signify by saying aye; those opposed no. The ayes have it and it is referred.

We will now consider Resolution No. 134 Opposing Closing of O'Hare Air Force Facility.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MUNSON: Resolution No. 134, Opposing of O'Hare Air Force Facility:

RESOLVED, That we respectfully and steadfastly urge the Members of Congress of the United States to defeat proposed legislation aimed at closing O'Hare Air Force Facility and airport at Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Cook County, two excellent military installations, vital to the economy of the State of Illinois, and to the strategic defense of our country and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That several copies of this Preamble and Resolution be respectfully submitted to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each Member of the Illinois Congressional Delegation.

It is my understanding that the Department of Illinois would like to have this Resolution referred to the Standing Commission for further study.

As Chairman, we have no problem with this, and Mr. Chairman and Commander, I move the referral of this Resolution to the Standing Committee.

. . . The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously and Resolution No. 134 was referred to the Standing Committee.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: We will not take up Resolution No. 135

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MUNSON: Resolution No. 135, Continue Operations of the Great Lakes Naval Training Station of the O'Hare Naval Facilities in Illinois.

RESOLVED, That the Department of Illinois of The American Legion encourages the present use of the United States and Congress and the Department of Defense to continue to operate the Great Lakes Naval Training Station and O'Hare Reserve Facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That legislation be enacted to that effect.

Mr. Commander, again, the Department of Illinois requests that this matter be referred to the Standing Commission for further study, and I have no quarrel with it being referred to the Standing Commission for further study.

I would move that the matter be referred to the Standing Commission for further study.

. . . The motion was duly seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: We have a motion and second to refer Resolution No. 135 to the Standing Committee. Any questions?

The Chair recognizes Microphone No. 5

DELEGATE JOHN HEIN, New Jersey: The New Jersey Delegation feels that certain Resolutions are based on parochialism and local issues. Unfortunately we feel that such a stand is often applied to a geographic area at a Convention, and that is where the Delegates must make rapid judgments on certain state or territorial matters. New Jersey Delegation does not feel that geographic areas should be the standard criteria for issues of National Security, particularly within these geographic state choices which affect large portions of our general population and their economy. Just as no man is an island, no state can be called America.

It does not involve other states and territories. Accordingly, New Jersey respectfully requests that the Convention consider the remarks of Benjamin Franklin in somewhat similar discussion has said, "Surely, gentlemen, we should all hang together or we certainly will hang separate."

The New Jersey Delegation feels that we should not turn our back on new Resolutions or that in of territories or states without full consideration and merit of the issue. Certainly the Resolution was not brought before this body, or it would not have reached the body if it were a state, territory Department founded was a local issue.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER BACON: Any other discussion?

The Chair recognizes Microphone No. 4.

DELEGATE JOHN GILES, Illinois: John Giles, Delegate, 16th District, Department of Illinois. Mr. Commander, the subject of this Resolution is hardly local, it not only affects Wisconsin and Illinois, but the security of our Nation. It is a Federal facility.

A fire station may not get a call in weeks or months, but the fact that it is in existence provides security for the community. You don't close down the fire station unless it is needed.

This is also true of the Great Lakes and O'Hare Facilities. The Great Lakes Training Station has sponsored 26,000 sailors in one year, and that is the only Naval entrance school in the Nation. There are 25,000 reserves in O'Hare ready to go on active duty with the minimum of additional training. Can anyone in this Convention predict when there will be a need, an immediate need for the facility?

Should The American Legion at any point condone the closing of any training facilities such as Paris Island, Keesler Field et cetera, ad infinitum? Shall we abandon and fail to maintain our military areas and be exploited?

Mr. Commander, I want to thank the Committee for accepting the motion to refer, and I hope that in the future on anything or a military installation is involved, The American Legion will stay steadfast. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you.

Any other discussions? If not, all those in favor of referring Resolution 135 signify by the sign of aye; those opposed no. The ayes have it and Resolution 135 is referred.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Ladies and gentlemen, at this point we are honored to have a military officer who is rising to more and more responsible levels in our Federal Government.

He is a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, and his other academic achievements include a Master of Arts in Personnel Administration from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton.

His sea assignments have been aboard the Submarines USS Carmick, the USS Flying Fish, and the USS Clagmore. Additionally, he was Executive Officer of the USS Wahoo and he commanded the submarine USS Trout.

He served in a variety of shore assignments prior to attaining flag rank, including Senior U.S. Advisor to the Vietnamese Riverine Force in the Republic of Vietnam.

As a flag officer, he was Director of the East Asia and Pacific Branch in the Defense Department, Commander of the Middle East Force in the Persian Gulf, Commander in Chief of Allied Forces in Southern Europe and Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command.

Our next guest also has been confirmed as the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He will assume that position on October 1 of this year.

He is also one of our newest American Legion Members, and I will present him his American Legion Card this morning.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join with me in a warm welcome to our next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral William J. Crowe, Jr.

**ADMIRAL WILLIAM J. CROWE, JR.**

**Future Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff**

Commander Bacon, Legionnaires and Guests, that introduction was a little more elaborate than the one I had received a few years ago, at a time when I was on duty in Washington, D.C. My wife and I had taken some leave, and were visiting her small hometown in Oklahoma.

I had been invited to speak before the local Kiwanis Club. In a burst of enthusiasm, the master of ceremonies announced they were about to hear the latest dope from Washington.

It looks like I'm going to be a dope from Washington again, in just a few weeks.

I was a little apprehensive about speaking to a crowd in a room this size. I'm not so sure Clarence Bacon is too competent, either. I asked him how many people would be in the audience, and he said, "Well, our arrangements sleep about 2500."

I would like to salute the planners of this significant event for selecting New Orleans as a site of their Convention. It is a city tremendously rich in history, music, and great Cajun cooking. It really never sleeps.

Now, I can't testify to that, but my aide told me that as he wandered off into the darkness last night mumbling something about, Dixieland Jazz.

They say you are home in New Orleans, when you no longer expect to find a canal on Canal Street, and when you think that the best doughnuts in the world are square and they have no holes in them.

Having grown up in an American Legion household, I have looked forward to this visit with anticipation. My father was a WWI Veteran, extremely proud both of his military service and of being a Legionnaire.

In 1920, right after WWI, my father moved to a small hometown, and took up the practice of law and partnership with his uncle. After a few years there, he ran for County Attorney, against a man who was a native-born in the community and lived in the community all his life.

A man campaigned under the motto, "Vote for the Home Man." My father countered with his own slogan, "My Opponent is the Home Man, Home before the War, Home during the War, and Home after the War."

My father lost the election, but he did get the Veteran vote, and he loved to tell that until the very day he died.

My generation, of course, owes an invaluable debt to The American Legion. In my view, the GI Bill of Rights, passed in 1944, is the most important piece of legislation produced by the Congress in this century. It bridged the human gap between peace and global war, and put our country on a firm and stable footing for the crucial post-war era.

It was an act initiated, sponsored and sold by The American Legion.

This of course is only one of many notable achievements in a host of notable achievements of your superb organization, ranging from Veteran hospitals to scholarships to baseball teams. The active forces are extremely beholden to you for your staunch commitment to, and active every day support for a strong national defense. On their behalf, I extend to you a very grateful thanks.

The Paris Caucus in 1919, and I understand there are four people at this Convention who attended that caucus, could hardly imagine what its modest efforts would grow into, a dynamic flourishing, imaginative, and energetic Veterans organization, extending to every corner of our republic. And I was most impressed last night at the dinner to see every section of this great country represented.

You can be extremely proud of your achievements, what you represent, and in the role model that you will provide for your fellow countrymen.

I believe strongly in the need for a constant dialogue between the military and civilian communities.

Defense is too important to leave to the professionals alone. It deeply impacts on all of us. Consequently, it is imperative that our citizenry be informed on security matters in order to participate responsibly in the continuing debate as to what emphasis defense should receive.

Certainly The American Legion plays a vital role in facilitating this process.

I never dwell on the subject of communicating problems or trying to communicate between sectors that I don't think of a story of a woman who visited the marriage counselor. She said that her marriage had very, very grave difficulties, in fact, she was considering divorce. And the counselor said, "Well, do you have grounds?"

And she said, "Oh, yes, we have five acres around the house."

He said, "Do you have a grudge?"

She said, "No, we have a carport."

And then he said, "Does your husband beat you up"?

She said, "No, I get up thirty minutes before he does every day."

Finally, in frustration, the marriage counselor said, "I don't understand what is the problem with your marriage."

She said, "Well, we can't communicate."

There are two ways to tell that story, one with laughter, and one way we're doing it here.

Humor aside, I jumped at Clarence Bacon's invitation to present a few of my views in my area of responsibility which is the Pacific and Indian Ocean Basins. Their importance to our own nation's security and to the free world in general, and above all, why every American has a growing interest in the Pacific and Indian Ocean regions is something that I will talk about this morning.

I had been away from the Pacific sometime before returning to Hawaii in 1983, and the two years I had been in the Pacific Command, I have detected a new sense of progress throughout Asia, a coming of age, so to speak. The region is assuming a more central role in the world stage.

In order to understand the current situation, I believe it is instructive to go back a few years. We have historically described ourselves as a "Pacific" Nation, but it took WW II to catapult us generally into Asia.

That war commenced and ended in the Pacific, a harbinger of things to come.

The late 1940's were very heady times, and I know, because I was there, and many of you were, also.

We approach the coming decades with great confidence and optimism.

We assumed that Europe was to continue as our only major focus of overseas interest, politically, economically, and militarily.

We assumed that all Communists were alike, unified, motivated, only by ideology, and impossible to do business with.

We assumed that since U.S. power in the Far East was relatively overwhelming, especially at sea and in the air, that this would permit us to control affairs as we chose.

And we assumed that Asiatic nations would play a supportive rather than a principal role in the world marketplace.

And in the intervening years, every one of those assumptions has either been overturned, or seriously modified.

From a U.S. perspective, the most traumatic events were the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Both graphically demonstrated that Europe was not the only game in town, and that there were definite limits to our ability to control international affairs.

Above all, we discovered in Vietnam, that in military ventures, it is essential to have broad domestic support, and unity of purpose.

The United States emerged from the Vietnam War with a sense of disillusionment, that delayed American recognition of the growing importance of Asia. But as our involvement in Vietnam ended, so did the marriage of convenience between Hanoi and Beijing. In turn, came the further realization that communist states do not necessarily enjoy the same interests or objectives.

Today, this is dramatically illustrated in the Western Pacific, where the most bitter confrontations are those between communists: Russia against China; the PRC opposing Vietnam; and Vietnam fighting insurgents with large Communist cadres in Kampuchea. In Asia, geography and nationalism have proved to be more constant elements in international relations than ideology, Communist or otherwise.

Likewise, we have discovered that while we do not share the People's Republic of China's ideology, we do have some mutual and common interests. In essence, China's desire to contain Soviet power and to build a modern economy overrides most obstacles to doing business with the free world and cause it to prefer a Western presence in Asia to a Soviet one.

In the midst of these historical developments, a more peaceful but amazing revolution was taking place. Almost unnoticed, the non-Communist countries of East Africa took off economically.

Today, U.S. trade with Japan, valued at over $80 billion annually, represents the most important seaborne bilateral relationship in world history. Together, the U.S. and Japan account for one-third of the entire world's gross product.

South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand and Malaysia have averaged close to 8% annual increases in their gross national products over the last 15 years. No other area can match these statistics.

Collectively East Asia is now the United States' largest world trading partner. Last year it accounted for 32% of our total global dealings, more than with all of Europe, not only that, it has been more than with all of Europe than the last nine years.

Not unrelated to economic progress has been a trend through the '60's and '70's toward political maturity in much of the region, particularly in the non-Communist community.

While democracy as a system has an uneven record in East Asia, responsibility and stability have steadily spread. Many nations that a few decades ago had no experience with independent rule now have stable administrations, permit dissent openly, and participate responsibly in international councils.

Admittedly, this process has not been trouble free. It has been painful for some developing countries to make their way into the modern world, but the fact remains since World War II, much of Asia has made remarkable advances toward self-government and a tremendously stable political climate.

While our country has endured agony in East Asia, these developments suggest that we have done some things right. Of course, the lion's share of the credit goes to the nations themselves, and to their energy and to their imagination, but the United States can claim to have been the major contributor to their progress. Our patient policies of broad support across the board are bearing heavy fruit.

U.S. military strength has surely been an important element in this effort. Only the United States possess the power to deter Soviet intimidation and adventurism. The American Shield, that is our military umbrella, has permitted these Asia societies to concentrate on internal development, and realize their own potential at their own pace.

You can take great pride in the important role that your Armed Forces have played in fostering progress in the Pacific Basin.

Ten years ago, the Vietnam collapse caused many in the region to doubt U.S. credibility and constancy. Having experienced that drama firsthand, I would have predicted at the time, that it would be a quarter of a century to recoup our policy. Fortunately, this has not been the case.

Since 1975, our Government has made vigorous efforts to reaffirm its commitment to Asia. This policy is paying off. As I travel throughout the command area visiting with civilian leaders and military leaders alike, I have discussed more cohesion and coincidence of view with our friends and allies than we have enjoyed in many years.

For example, Japan's emergence both as an economic superpower and a firmly rooted democracy speaks for the success of

the postwar partnership between Tokyo and Washington. Commendably, Japanese leaders are taking a strong stand against Soviet intimidation, and improving their ties with ASEAN, and expanding their assistance to the Third World.

On the Korean Peninsula, we find a bustling and thriving Republic, which, with U.S. support, has rebuilt the war ravaged country into one of the economic miracles of the world. Seoul still confronts an implacable and dangerous adversary in North Korea, as evidenced by the brutal Rangoon bombing a few months ago. It is essential that we continue to work with the Republic of Korea, as we have for over 30 years in deterring the threat from the North, for peace on the Peninsula is extremely important to the stability not of that region, but the entire free world.

Regarding the People's Republic of China, last January, I visited with General Vessey, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The highlight of our visit was the food. I cannot resist Chinese food. We had 11 banquets in seven days. I told my wife, I regretted I had only one stomach to give for my country.

But on the serious side, I had a unique opportunity to talk with many of their leaders and observe their military forces in field training. The experience was both rewarding and enlightening.

In recent years, the PRC has moderated its foreign policy and demonstrated a desire to improve relations with its non-Communist neighbors. Moreover, Beijing has announced its support for NATO, joined the IMF and World Bank, and is seeking Western technology, credit and trade. Building on our common interests, the Administration is not compromising our own beliefs but building on our common interests and is laying groundwork for a healthy and long-term U.S.-PRC relationship.

Our policies in Southeast Asia meanwhile have centered around the vitality of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN, the non-military linking of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. I am pleased to note that the members of ASEAN have steadily drawn closer to Washington in a variety of ways, although four remain non-aligned.

Thailand is both a U.S. ally and a frontline state. It has become steadily more flourishing, politically confident, and militarily self-reliant. In turn, it deserves our support in resisting Vietnamese incursions. The Thai people are more over to be commended for their generous refugee policy.

Our military ties with the Republic of the Philippines remain strong, despite the recent political turmoil. U.S. forces based in that nation serve as a clear signal of America's intent to remain a Pacific power and are integral to our ability to live up to our treaty commitments and to exert influence in the region.

Farther South, Australia and New Zealand have become full-fledged members of the South Pacific and Southeast Asian communities. In turn, the ANZUS cloak has contributed heavily to regional security and stability.

Taken as a whole, our friends and allies are making vigorous efforts to help themselves, while at the same time benefiting from U.S. security policies.

Now, this is not to say that there are no clouds on the horizon. There are, as you know, thorny political, economic and security problems currently confronting the Republic of the Philippines. This problem as a military commander, I am especially concerned about the insurgent growth movement, but you can be assured that Washington is seeking ways to work closely with the Philippine people in order to stabilize the situation and to strengthen their ability to deal with their economic and their social and their military problems.

With the extensive media coverage, you are all aware that the United States relationship with New Zealand is presently strained. The New Zealand Labour Government's "Nuclear Free" stand has been implemented in a way that conflicts with our policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons on board our Naval units. Prime Minister Lange's decision, has in effect, terminated the U.S. Pacific fleet's access to New Zealand. This calls into question the vitality of our ANZUS connection with Wellington. Frankly, it is difficult to see how Washington can commit its support to an ally when that country refuses to permit our ships access to its harbors, and, in turn, constrains our ability to operate with its armed forces.

The Iran-Iraq War continues with no end in sight. It presents the attendant dangers of widening involvement and the increased terrorist threat from groups supporting Iran's Islamic Revolution. As a result, this conflict is a drain on my Command's resources, and detracts from our Pacific presence, since it is necessary for us to keep strong forces in the Northern Arabian Sea to deal with contingencies that might arise from that conflict.

In the years ahead, it appears essential, more than ever before, that Japan and the United States resolve existing trade differences, while maintaining a healthy, open competition which will benefit both countries.

This is no small challenge and will require statesmanship of a high order on both sides of the Pacific, particularly if our vital strategic relationship is not to be eroded. In this regard, I am happy to report that our military ties with Japan are improving daily.

Now, those are just a few of the more significant problems in the Pacific. But is is important that they be kept in proper perspective. They are the stuff of every day business, and in one form or another, they will always be with us.

Paul Harvey put it well when he said, "In times like these, it is helpful to remember that there have always been times like these."

I believe it is imperative to keep in mind that despite our every day difficulties and problems we have seen over the years, a remarkably abundant and stable climate in East Asia, which coincides with the basic goals, not only of Washington but of the entire free world.

What has been the Soviet reaction to these events? As Asia prospers, Moscow has become a great deal more interested in the area. The Soviets rightly are concerned that peace and economic success in the region will thwart both their East Asia and global ambitions. Put simply, the Kremlin can no longer ignore the Western Pacific.

At this juncture, Moscow has very little to boast about in that part of the world. Vietnamese friendship is costing them $3 million a day. This money underwrites Hanoi's repression of Cambodia, a questionable venture at best. Afghanistan can hardly be characterized as an untarnished victory, politically or militarily, and North Korea, although friendly, is neither a grateful nor reliable ally to Moscow.

India remains non-aligned. The hundreds of thousands of Afghan, Khmer and Vietnamese refugees seeking safe havens further condemn Communist policies. In short, Moscow's investments have paid small return in terms of political influence. Economically, the story is much the same.

The Soviet Union has been remarkably unsuccessful in penetrating the robust Asian trade. Some 7% of its exports go eastward and the region accounts for only 12% of its imports. Vietnam, North Korea, and Afghanistan are all suffering from economic stagnation or decline and appear destined to remain insignificant players in the marketplace.

Despite their poor showing politically and economically, or more likely, because of it, the Soviets seem to be turning to the one alternative they can develop and exploit unilaterally, their military power.

Over the past decade and a half, we have seen a steep rise in

their Far Eastern strength. Let me summarize some recent developments:

An Asian-oriented Theater Nuclear Force that fields over 135 SS-20 nuclear missiles with over 400 warheads, and these are in the barren provinces of the Soviet Union. It includes also 80 Backfire bombers, the world's most advanced and sophisticated attack and delivery nuclear system; an increase from the 1960's of 20 divisions to over 50 modernized divisions arrayed mostly opposite China; improved and permanent military bases in the occupied Japenese northern territories; over 2,000 sophisticated land-based combat planes, and a rapidly growing Pacific Armada, which includes one-third of their total Naval power and represents the largest of their four fleets. In its ranks are some of the most modern surface and submarine units, as well as an impressive land-based Naval air arm.

Supporting these assets are Soviet Naval and Air Facilities in Vietnam, South Yemen, and Ethopia. Cam Ranh Bay 2200 miles south of Vladivostok has for all intents and purposes become a permanent Russian base. It represents a possible threat to the Philippine installations, as well as all the ASEAN and the important sea lanes of commerce in the South China Sea.

The most alarming aspect of this buildup is that the Soviets are extending the potential battle zone farther and farther from their own shores. They can now attack not only the Far East, but reach the Mid-Pacific, the Aleutians and a large part of mainland Alaska. Clearly, they are betting on force to gain the influence that has eluded them in other arenas.

Let there be no mistake, the Soviets will not hesitate to use their power brutally and directly, when they believe the calculus is in their favor — witness Afghanistan.

In this regard, it is interesting to note that while many nations use force against their enemies, the Russian leaders don't hesitate to use it against their "friends," as members of the Warsaw Pact can testify.

Looking into the future, I would suggest that it is our nation's fundamental interest to continue to foster stability, to encourage a healthy economic environment, and to support friends and allies.

Every bit as important is our military strength. If the Soviet Union were one day to achieve a decided superiority in the Pacific, the very foundations of our Asian foreign policy could be jeopardized, not to mention the consequences in the event of hostilities.

Time does not permit me to belabor the relative equation of Soviet versus U.S. strength in the Pacific. It is important to point out, however, that our forces are at full stretch. Despite the steady growth of our defense commitments and the enormous build-up undertaken by the Kremlin, our military presence steadily declinded in the theater until 1979. As a result, we have fewer forces today than we did in the early '60's.

I am pleased to report, however, that we have seen a reversal in the more alarming downward trends. Our Congress and Executive Branch have become far more aware of the region's increasing importance, and the rapidly changing military balance. As a result of earlier budget actions, we are witnessing a gradual improvement across the board. Our efforts to bring modern ships, aircraft and other weapon systems to the field are showing their effect.

While I am still concerned about some shortfalls in ammunition, spare parts, and petroleum products, we are catching up in these areas as well. Most important, the men and women under my command are the best trained, the best educated, and as patriotic and as enthusiastic and as brave as any I have seen in over 40 years of service.

Can I just say as an aside, that probably the greatest award of a career of a professional career of a military is the opportunity to associate day in and day out with young American men and women. I can tell you the future of the country is in good hands. We have nothing to worry about.

We need to continue our improvements in quantity and quality if we are to meet our global commitments, and if forced to fight to be confident that we will prevail.

In my judgment, we cannot afford to slacken our efforts in the period ahead.

In this regard, this year's Congressional actions on the defense budget of a zero growth budget are disturbing to me. Mark Twain put it well when he said, "Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over it you just sit there."

It is imperative that the Administration's long-term defense programs be carried to fruition and that our attention not be diverted from this fundamental goal. Otherwise, we are simply going to be outstripped by the Soviets. It is here that The American Legion can play a vital role in influencing and educating our people and our lawmakers.

And I was genuinely interested in the Report of the Security Committee this morning in that regard.

I know of no military leader in our nation who desires war. To encourage peace is my command's fundamental mission, but we must remember that freedom is not free. It requires constant effort and vigilance and, at times, sacrifice; the type of sacrifice for which our Republic is famous.

I am convinced that our current broad based approach, diplomatic, economic and military, is sending the right signal to potential adversaries, a signal that the U.S., the world's greatest nation will continue to play a leading role in promoting stability and assisting its allies in the Pacific Theater and worldwide.

At the same time, however, it is imperative to recognize that our military strength underwrites these policies and is an indispensable pillar of our freedom. Although the state of our forces is improving, the Kremlin is working diligently to upset the balance.

In my view, our deterrent policy has worked well. If it is to continue to do so, we must match the growing danger with a consistent and rational defense policy geared for the long run, instead of one marked by the peaks and valleys which have characterized so much of our peacetime history.

If your military is to be successful, it needs good people and good hardware. But, all the people, ships, aircraft, tanks and guns provided by an increased budget won't be worth much unless our nation's military forces are strongly and staunchly supported by all Americans.

Your military is not an organization apart, but an integral segment of the society which it serves. It will only be as good as that society wants it to be.

To that end, The American Legion's untiring support in bringing home these lessons to Americans of every stripe is vital and deeply appreciated by all service people.

In essence, we labor together on behalf of a noble cause, the protection of the Republic, its people, its ideals and institutions. It deserves our best efforts.

Thank you Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you very much Admiral Crow, your message is not only timely but most informative, and on behalf of the 2.7 million members of The American Legion we want to wish you always to have fair winds and following seas in your new job, and we are very pleased to have Mrs. Crow with us this morning, and Mrs. Crow, would you please come up.

Admiral, we have a couple of gifts for you and one for Mrs. Crow. This is a commemorative cap of the National Convention here which you can add to your collection, and the Admiral does

collect these and he has well over 500 in his collection. Also, Admiral, here is your Legion card and your diamond lapel pin, and to Mrs. Crow a small gift on behalf of the members here, I think we have one of these for the Admiral also.

Admiral, thank you very much, it has been a pleasure having you here.

**PRESENTATION OF**
**THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: This next presentation is a very special one at every American Legion Convention, it is our opportunity to recognize distinguished Americans for their outstanding service to the nation.

This year we are honoring a man whose service has been in keeping with the principles and traditions of our highest award — the Distinguished Service Medal.

He served in World War II as a member of General Douglas MacArthur's intelligence staff. He then returned to his native California where he served three terms as a state legislator, Chairman on the Commission on California State Government Organization and Economy and as California's Director of Finance.

At the Federal level his talents were employed as Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, Deputy Director and Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and he has been our Secretary of Defense since 1981.

He has demonstrated many times over the importance of national defense for America by emphasizing the concept of peace through preparedness, and he has displayed untiring efforts and patriotic devotion in prepetuating American principles.

Fellow Legionnaires it is my distinct honor and personal privilege at this time to present The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal to Secretary of Defense, Caspar W. Weinberger, Mr. Secretary.

**THE HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER**

**Secretary of Defense**

Thank you very much, indeed that is a very great honor and one that I am very proud to wear, and I will certainly be very proud indeed to display that beautiful plaque in my office in the Pentagon.

It is also a very great honor for me to have the opportunity to bring you the greetings of President Reagan and his very best wishes. He has, as he told me and he has told many audiences many times, the greatest respect for the Legion, and I am sure that those of you have known him know how much he regrets that he can't be here in person as he has been at many of your previous conventions. But he did ask me particularly to bring to you his warm best wishes, and I am indeed honored to have the opportunity to do that.

Commander Bacon and other distinguished Legionnaires it is a great honor for me to accept this medal which I will certainly always treasure, and particularly your very fine words of recognition and your very generous introduction.

You know, the Legion is a very important part of American history, and that history provides a lot of lessons for defense planners. In the past America has been very slow to take up arms and we paid a very high price for that. Today, in contrast, we maintain a large standing force, but its posture is completely defensive. We are a lot better prepared now, but as Americans we nevertheless still reject any kind of first-strike strategy.

This preparedness requires a lot of realism, a lot of strength and a continued commitment, and this is the type of leadership that President Reagan has provided for us.

I would like to talk just a little bit about preparedness as I let you know how deeply grateful I am to you for this honor you have paid to me.

The threat of Soviet aggression is evident from their growing offensive military strength. The vital interest of all free nations are put at risk by this threat, and it is as encompassing as it is dangerous.

You know, a lot of people try to excuse this, and they say the Soviets are just very much afraid of being invaded and being encircled, and so they have to move their defensive perimeters out. Well, they have moved them so far out that they are taking in a very large part of the globe, and we have to notice that and we have to be concerned with that. We have to understand also that a lot of developing nations have spread aggression too by adopting the Soviet method of political control. Anti-democratic leaders in countries like Cuba, North Korea, and Vietnam justified tyranny with promises of great economic and social progress. But Communism really succeeds nowhere, so, it is practitioners soon have to turn to aggression, especially terrorism, against their neighbors. Communism doesn't even work well in the Soviet Union. You know, for many years it has been a nation that cannot feed itself and they have to import enormous quantities of wheat and other foods. But their military expansion continues and it serves as a threat to other free nations in Asia and in Europe, and now in our own hemisphere.

The Soviets have spent a decade of converting outer space to military use and advantage, and this is one of the things that makes the President's strategic defense initiative even more important and even more vital, and it is no accident or coincidence that the Soviets have expressed the strongest possible opposition to the President's strategic defense initiative. As the President has said many times, if it is so impossible and so expensive that it will never work then why are the Soviets so worried about the work we do on it at the President's direction. I strongly endorse the Legion's resolution on strategic defense and I want to assure you right now that we will never give up our right or search for a better and safer world with effective strategic defenses against Soviet nuclear weapons.

This strategic defense initiative has many critics, and some doubt the promise of our own technology, others ignore history with the dangerous and really curious theory that nations are only safe when they are perfectly vulnerable. I think it is important to bear in mind not only have the Soviets been working to develop a defense of this kind but that it is our own work in that field that brought them back to the negotiating table at Geneva. It was not Soviet good will that brought them there it was our strategic defense and our enormous improvement in our military strength.

Their threat is as ruthless as it is global, and when they shot down the Korean airliner and murdered 267 people, and then they murdered our Major Arthur Nicholson in Berlin, these are prime examples.

What is called the Brezhnev Doctrine has become a formal statement of their intentions that calls for Soviet intervention to protect any socialist state. In that way they justify their presence in eastern Europe and in Afghanistan as well, and now that doctrine can be used to justify the support of a socialist regime in Nicaragua which is very close to home. The Soviet security belt does not extend to our shores, and I can assure you that President Reagan will not let our back be put to the wall in Nicaragua.

The Soviets, of course, will exploit any weakness of ours. They out spent us by one-third on defense for the period 1974 to '83. In that decade they added seven divisions, they produced five

ground force weapon systems for every one of ours, they added tactical fighters and submarines at two to three times our numbers, and they modernized their intercontinental ballistic missile fleet. They did that with three new generations of missiles, and we have been arguing for twelve years now about whether we should deploy MX. That is our only improvement during that time.

The Soviets are under no restraints imposed by public opinion because they have no public opinion there, so, they can always outspend us on defense, nor is there any real attempt to improve the quality of life for their citizens, and that makes no difference because they have no public opinion. Their leadership frequently explains the differences quite simply, they say that since American shops have fewer buyers and that you don't see long lines of people waiting, unlike the Soviet Union, they say that most Americans, because there are no lines waiting to buy, are too poor to buy anything. That is a curious Soviet logic.

They are investing heavily in defense technology, and what they can't develop they steal. Technology theft is another of their priorities, and they have been rather good at it. An American engineer was visiting a technology museum in Moscow and he saw a computer that looked like an IBM 360, and the guide told him it was invented by a Russian Ivan Ivonovich, and then said the guide as they passed the statute of Leonid Brezhnev, "There," he said, "is the man who invented Ivanovich." Of course, as we all know, the Soviets invented the airplane, the telephone and even Shakespeare. But there is one thing that the Soviet empire does really produce and that is military force, and they do it at the expense of everything else in their communities, and that force has been used and is being used.

Brezhnev once put it to the Czech Leader Dubcek, "don't talk to me about socialism, what we have we hold."

Well, the realistic understanding of the threat we face must determine the strength we require. Our strategy is defensive. We need not, nor do we try to match the Soviets plane for plane or missile for missile. Soviet insistence on superiority is justified by their offensive strategic doctrine.

Our defense forces are basically austere. It is doubly important that they be kept strong and ready to fight if deterrence fails and ready to expand if we must. So, I strongly endorse your resolution that calls for support of a strong defense.

I would like for just a moment or two to report to you on some of the progress we have made. We had a study by a Congressional expert a few months ago, John Collins. He said, "The good news is that military morale is high; the maintainability and sustainability of our military hardware is improving; and our forces are better manned, trained and equipped, and more combat ready. U.S. forces are gaining in modern armaments and the mission capability rates of our ships, aircraft, tanks and other major weapons systems have increased substantially.

General Bessie, who is the outgoing Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff phrased it very well. He said, never in his 45 years of service has he seen the American military better equipped, better supported, better sustained, or with a higher morale, and that is something which we can take a very great pride in.

But because the Soviets have never stopped adding to their offensive forces, that same study I mentioned a moment ago said that the gaps between the United States and the Soviet capabilities have not been significantly narrowed. That is exactly what the President and I have been saying for five years, and why we have been urging that we must not slow our recovery, and we have made progress, as I have said.

But we can't complete that recovery until our commitment to do it is steadfast. We can't do part of the job and then stop, because the Soviets never stop, and they have continued to invest in defense at very large amounts, far greater than ours, and yet remember during the whole decade of the '70's we went down in defense investment by more than 20 percent.

Now, Congress is a partner, and they are, and up to this year they gave the President and me 95 percent of all of the requests we submitted.

We read a lot about how opposed Congress has been to all of the things we wanted done. Fortunately that isn't true, but this year the defense authorization bill provided no real growth in defense, and the appropriations committees haven't even drafted their bills yet. The conference version of the defense authorization bill puts our spending level nearly five percent below what even President Carter forecasted was the need. So, judged by Congress' action this year you would, I think, be forgiven for assuming the Soviets had declared peace and disarmed.

Well, it is important to know that our defense recovery is in the home stretch. If you can go for a couple of more years with the increases that we have requested, somewhere in the neighborhood of three and a half or four percent then I think we will be able to say with safety that we have regained a deterrent capability. We will never have more missiles. For example, we will never be ahead in tanks but we will have enough to keep our peace and keep our freedom.

Well, the voluntary military force is one of our greatest prides. Uniforms are worn with pride. Those terrible days when I saw in San Francisco, my hometown then, American veterans returning from Vietnam being booed and picketed on the docks of San Francisco because of the unpopular nature of that war, fortunately that is all behind us, and I attribute it to the great leadership which the President has provided, and you can see it again in the way that our volunteer force is working. Fifty-two percent now of our first-term people are re-enlisting. That is up by more than 30 percent from 1980. The career reenlistment is running at nearly 85 percent, and that is up almost 20 percent from just a few years ago. We are getting more high quality volunteers that we can accept. You literally have to stand in line now if you want to join the Armed Services, and that enables our commanders to pick and choose and get some very good people.

So, this is no time, of course, to reduce the fair compensation to the troops, and I am glad, indeed, that Congress thus far has given us a three percent raise this year. They did cut nearly $3 billion from military retirement, and they directed us to restructure the whole system. I endorsed our resolution which says that the basic system is appropriate now, and, of course, we will oppose any changes that might adversely affect those who have already retired or are currently serving because we think that would not only hurt our recruitment effort but we think it would be an immoral way to treat the people who have served us so well.

So, I think we have done really very well in the past four and a half years with strong congressional support, but our force modernization program requires more support, a continued support, and military spending is not very popular — I guess I am the leading American authority on that subject — but it is vital, and we are going to keep on with the requests and the efforts to get what is required for the nation's security.

On a happier note, we are going to buy 48 more of the B-1B bombers, this year and deploy all 100 by the end of the next decade, and thereafter we will be deploying an advanced bomber which should give us a significant advantage over anything that the Soviets have in the field, or, so far as we know, are contemplating.

We are finally beginning to deploy the MX Missile which we need to cover the number of hardened targets in the Soviet Union that keep on increasing.

So, as I say, the Congressional scorecard is not negative, and I particularly applaud the statesmanship of many members who

have bravely fought for renewed chemical weapon production. This is not a happy subject, we wish we didn't have to do it, but the Soviet chemical capability is enormous, and they have not hesitated to use it in Afghanistan and elsewhere. We must produce safer binary systems which have finally been authorized by the Congress, and which you supported. Then your land forces have acquired a whole new face since 1980. The new tanks which are, we think, the best in the world, the Bradley infantry fighting vehicles which enables the infantry to be moved up closer to where they have to be with considerably more protection, and those of you who have been in the infantry know that is is a lot better than walking into place. Then we have a tactical air fleet, the F-15, 16 and F/A-18. We have new air-to-air armaments, and our ship building program is well under way. In the past three years we have begun the construction of 56 warships and we have now three new carriers under construction.

So, I would just now like to mention in closing, an even less happy topic, some of the procurement horror stories you have been reading about.

You all remember, and we all continue to remember that we campaigned and the President believes in the elimination of waste and fraud and abuse, and it is important to know that one of my first acts when I cam to the Department in January of '81 was to order a widespread audit of our defense contracts. This is a pretty big job. I don't know if many of you realize that we sign in the Defense Department 52 thousand contracts every single day, so when you have over 15 or 16 million contracts a year it is important to do these audits, and they certainly did uncover, at our direction, some outrageous prices for a few items, and you have read about them. What you haven't read about is that we refused to pay these, and in a few cases whereby mistake the checks have gone out we have demanded and obtained refunds, even on those old contracts we inherited that were so bad that we weren't legally entitled to refunds. So, you haven't read much about that. You haven't read much about some of our very real achievements. We are buying hundreds of thousands of hammers, pliers and other common tools well below the retail price or wholesale price for a few dollars. Actually since 1981 our Inspector General, which is the man we appointed and gave complete freedom to, has conducted 68 thousand audits, and these have resulted in savings of nearly $8 million dollars. We have set up a liaison with the Justice Department to have a fraud unit investigate many contractors. Many have not done anything wrong, but it is vital for us to know that all are doing their job well.

Over 250 contractors have paid more than $35 million dollars in fines, penalties and refunds just in the past year, and then we have obtained what I consider the best return policy that I ever heard of, Boeing, General Electric, McDonnell Douglas and many others have promised us refunds for any parts that we believe for any reason are overpriced or defective, and that was the initiative they took to regain public confidence in their work. I think it is the best return policy I have ever heard.

I think it is important to bear in mind that a lot of these problems went undiscovered for many years and that it is important to investigate them and bring them, out, and I think it is important to note also that, you know, you used to read about these huge cost overruns. Well, we have taken the major weapons systems, 85 sytems, and we have looked at their cost increases and these used to run 14 and 15 percent over the estimates in 1980. Now it's less than one percent. Sometimes those increases are caused because Congress cuts back the amount involved and that forces us to buy fewer and that sends the unit cost up.

Well, I know that a lot of these diclosures we have made are twisted around to embarrass us. The President told me once jokingly that it is a mistake to search for skeletons in the closet because you are apt to get indicted. It is probably easy public relations to say that we should have never even started hunting, but we will continue to expose these fradulent practices, we will continue to reform the procurement process and we will do that because we have to be satisfied that the American taxpayer is getting the very best deal possible. Where we find things wrong, and we have and we probably will with 15 million contracts a year, then we are going to take immediate action to get refunds.

But the industrial base that we have to have is the real arsenal of our democracy. Its the great resource which gave us victory in two World War, and we have to make it stronger, keep it independent in private not public hands. We have to keep it honest, and we have to keep it productive, and we are doing all those things, but we can't underestimate the Soviet economy, particularly when it is devoted to military acquisition.

Former Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird said that two decades of neglect cannot be undone in five years and that sentiment has been echoed by the recent Congressional study that I mentioned a moment ago on the military balance.

We have made great progress. We have to continue. We can't afford any more zero-growth defense budgets in 1987 and '88. None of us want to return to our emaciated status of our 1970 forces with low readiness, low morale, and, above all encouragement for Soviet aggression. The Soviets are held in check by our demonstration of resolve, and I don't think we should be in any doubt at all that if we faulter they will only be encouraged to be more aggressive and more offensive.

The Legion has always provided a steady voice of support for our security. It is a voice based on realism, strength of conviction and commitment as demonstrated by your participation in peace and in war. You have always been there. America is the last great hope of a free world and the Legion is the forward wall of our commitment to the values that I assure you we will never relinquish. Thank you very much indeed.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary, for those most timely and inspiring words, and as you may know, Mr. Secretary, national defense and national security of the United States is a number one priority of The American Legion and that veterans programs rank second only to the national security.

The Secretary has his lovely lady with him this morning and I would like to introduce Mrs. Weinberger. If she would please join us up here. I would like to present the Secretary with his Legion membership card and ask Mrs. Weinberger to pin his diamond lapel pin on. Thank you so very much.

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## NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER'S REMARKS

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: As I have noted before, this year has been most successful in many areas, and I would like to take this opportunity to call on each of our National Vice Commanders to offer a report. The first National Vice Commander to be reporting this morning is Harold Collett.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER HAROLD COLLETT: Ladies and gentlemen of The American Legion my report to you today will be brief. We have had a fantastic year with an outstanding Commander. We have made gains in membership throughout the nation that have been unheard of for many years. I would like to particularly congratulate the Western Division of the states for their outstanding membership. The states in my responsibility ended the year with over a 108 percent of goal, the highest of all. You heard throughout this Convention of the fine achievements of those Department Commanders, their Membership Chairmen and their Delegations as a whole. I commend all of you for that.

On a personal note I would like to thank all of those fine people

that I visited during my travels particularly the Department Commanders and the NECmen that showed me such gracious hospitality. I would also like to thank our National Staff because they have helped and assisted me and the other Vice Commanders greatly. Without them we could not have been effective.

I would also like to thank the other National Officers, and particularly the other National Vice Commanders for their comradery, their assistance and their fine leadership, and finally I would like to thank our great National Commander Clarence Bacon, for, Clarence, you have been an inspiring leader. You have been a consultant, you have been a support, and, most important of all, you have been a good friend, and I will cherish that friendship forever. Thank you, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The next National Vice Commander will be Steve Mikosky of Pennsylvania.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER STEPHEN J. MIKOSKY, PENNSYLVANIA: Thank you very much, National Commander Bacon, National Officers, my fellow Delegates and ladies to this 67th Convention of The American Legion. I would like to say how proud I have been to be associated with our National Commander Clarence Bacon and my fellow Vice Commanders. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Department Commanders that were under my jurisdiction on the eastern seaboard, the National Executive Committeemen and all their Department officers, and especially the members of each Department for showing me the courtesy and extending me a welcome hand when I visited their Departments on American Legion official business.

I would like to thank Bob Spanogle and his Staff for making my job an easier one. They were available, they were at our beck and call at all times when we needed information on any of our projects in The American Legion.

I would like to say this, it certainly has been my pleasure to be selected a National Vice Commander of this great organization and, above all, to serve with a man like Clarence Bacon who has offered his leadership, his friendliness to all members of The American Legion no matter where we went.

In closing I would like to thank the Department of Pennsylvania for selecting me to be a candidate for National Vice Commander. Thank you and God bless you all.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Our next National Vice Commander to report will be Bob Turner of Georgia.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER ROBERT S. TURNER, GEORGIA: Mr. Commander, distinguished platform guests and Delegates to this Convention. There is an often used quote that you have heard many times both quoted and part of the words of a song that goes, "All the world is a stage and every man must play a part."

Now, I think all of you have demonstrated that you have played a tremendous part in making this year a success for our National Organization. My sincere thanks goes to our National Commander Clarence Bacon, to the National Officers and to our National Staff, both in Indianapolis and in Washington, D.C. Also a special thanks to those Departments that I had the pleasure and opportunity of working with these past 12 months for your cooperation, your support, for your friendship and for your contributions to our organization I am indeed appreciative.

To my friends from the Department of Georgia who have made it possible for me to be a part of the National Organization this year another sincere thank you. We have not all reached the goals that we had established for ourselves but we have laid the groundwork for bigger and better things to come. Again my sincere thanks to all of you for a year that I will remember for the rest of my life. Thank you and God bless.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The next National Vice Commander to report is Ron Birk.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER RONALD D. BIRK, KANSAS: Thank you, Commander Bacon. Distinguished guests and Delegates to this Convention. It has been certainly a great honor and real pleasure for me to serve in this capacity this year. There really isn't much left to say except me too. I would also like to thank the National Staff and all the National Officers for their cooperation and assistance. It has been really great and they made all of our jobs much easier. I would like to thank all of the Departments in my area for their special kindnesses and the hospitality on my visits into their Departments, and a special thanks to my home Department of Kansas for their support of me for this office and all during the year. It has been a great honor and I thank you all for the opportunity to serve this great organization. It's a privilege that I shall never forget. Thank you very much and God bless you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: And the last National Vice Commander to report is Stewart R. Kunde of Minnesota.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER STEWART R. KUNDE, MINNESOTA: Thank you, Mr. Commander, Delegates to this great Convention and the greatest veterans organization in this world. I thoroughly enjoyed serving the Departments that I was assigned as a National Vice Commander. National Commander Bacon also gave me the opportunity to make a presentation at the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. I appreciated that and the hospitality of the Department of Maryland very much.

The direct membership solicitation program was a great help in the recruitment of new members this year. As you are all aware to date some 17 thousand veterans joined in the Departments that were my responsibility. A special recognition to Past Commander Jim Chapin of the Department of Wisconsin for exceeding last year's final total without counting any DMS members and to Past Department Commander Brad Jorgens in the Department of Minnesota for attaining their 21st all time high. Minnesota continues to lead our organization in that achievement.

My congratulations to Past Commander Harris from the Department of Michigan and Past Commander Drake from the Department of Ohio for exceeding last year's final total and to Past Commander Peggy Reiny of the Department of Delaware and Past Commander Warden of the Department of West Virginia and Past Commander Winkler of the Department of France for thier contributions to make our team effort to be the number one acheivement group.

I want to give special recognition to Mike Kerrigan the Staff Liaison man for all his help this past year and to National Adjtant Robert Spanogle and staff for their gracious assistance when called upon, and surely last but not least, I want to thank the Department of Minnesota for their help.

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to serve The American Legion as a National Vice Commander, and my sincere appreciation to National Commander Bacon for his outstanding leadership of this great veterans organization. It was a pleasure for me to be a part of his team.

Now, gentlemen, Vice Commanders, come up here, and Commander Bacon, we would like to have you come up here. I would ask Vice Commander Turner to begin this little part of the program.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER TURNER: Mr. Commander, we have had a great year serving with you. We have talked to members of your family and to other members of the organization trying to come up with something to show you how much we appreciate your efforts and to express to you our love and appreciation. Your wife told us that when you get home she has been washing dishes and doing all the cooking for the time that you have been gone, and she knows where she is going to put you, in

the kitchen. So, if you have got to go to the kitchen we want to make sure that you stay clean so we want to give you this personalized apron with your name on it.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER KUNDE: Commander, believe me this is not the extent of your gifts. If you will just read this card I think you will understand what we are trying to do.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: First I would like to say — I guess I'll say thanks for this. I am glad my wife is not here to see me wearing this. I am certainly going to take it off before she shows up. But I suppose I appreciate that.

I will tell you it has been a pleasure working with you five gentlemen this year, and I will read the card. It is dated August 28, 1985, and it is addressed to Commander Bacon, "We hope you enjoy the apron while cooking on the gas barbecue grill which will be delivered to your home after the Convention. We all appreciate the opportunity to serve with you and we wish for you the very best. It has been a great year. Your National Vice Commanders," and it is signed by all five of them. To all of you it has been my pleasure to serve with you.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER KUNDE: Commander Bacon, if you think that's too expensive a gift I want you to know we bought it on sale.

### PRESENTATION OF PAST NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER PINS

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: While things were on sale I bought each of you a little gift too, and these came from the Emblem Sales Office in Indianapolis. These are your Past National Vice Commander pins and I am going to present them to you without pinning them on. But it is just great to know such fine gentlemen and know that you work everyday for The American Legion. Let's give a big hand to our National Vice Commanders.

### PRESENTATION OF PAST NATIONAL CHAPLAIN PINS

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: I am going to save the National Sergeant-at-Arms for last so I'll ask the National Chaplain to come forward at this time, Father Rice.

Father Rice, here is your Chaplain's pin, and again I want to say to you how much I have appreciated working with you, and also to thank you on behalf of all of these Legionnaires for what you have done for our God and our country this year. Thank you so much.

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN REV. CHARLES G. RICE, JR.: Thank youu, Clarence.

I think I said the other day that we would have a ball and we have had a ball. It has been wonderful being part of your love and affection, your concern for our country, your concern for our association with my boss, for God himself is with us all along the way. God bless you.

### PRESENTATION OF PAST NATIONAL HISTORIAN'S PIN

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: To Roy Mahoney, a gentleman who has done an outstanding job in keeping track of the history of this great organization this year, here is your Past Historian's lapel pin. Thank you so very much.

NATIONAL HISTORIAN ROBERT R. MAHONEY: Thank you, Mr. Commander. Thank you, members of The American Legion, thank you for giving me this privilege.

### PRESENTATION OF PAST SERGEANT-AT-ARMS' PIN

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: I would like the Sergeant-at-Arms Charles St. Clair to please come forward. Charlie, it has been a pleasure working with you all year, and I want to give you your Past National Sergeant-at-Arms' lapel pin with my best wishes for the future.

NATIONAL SERGEANT-AT-ARMS CHARLES A. ST. CLAIR: Thank you. My, National Commander Bacon, I am National Sergeant-at-Arms St. Clair, what can I say. It's a dream that I had, but to serve with Clarence from the State of Maryland, there are no words in the dictionary to tell you how I feel. To all you wonderful people, to the National Commander and to anyone else that had anything to do with me being the National Sergeant-at-Arms, I can just simply say thank you from the bottom of my heart.

### INTRODUCTION

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: And I want my aide Leroy McCauley to take another bow this morning. Leroy and his wife Ellen are over on the stage here with my wife, and Leroy and Ellen McCauley.

Thank you very much, Leroy and Ellen and my wife Helen. I think if it is O.K. with the National Vice Commanders, I would like to present you with an apron, I think it would just fit. Thank you very much.

### PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT COMMANDER EARL NUTTLE, MARYLAND

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: At this time I would like to ask the 1984-85 Commander of Maryland, Mr. Earl Nuttle, to come forward.

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER EARL NUTTLE, Maryland: Thank you, Commander Bacon, National Officers, distinguished guests, fellow Delegates to the 67th National Convention. I don't know what you people have done to provoke this type of punishment from our National Commander, but obviously it was something pretty serious and you should all be ashamed of yourselves.

I am sure everyone here is fully aware of the hectic pace any of our National Commanders must maintain in carrying out their assigned duties. It is sort of a here today, gone tomorrow type of affair, constantly on the move, dashing in and out of hotels, motels, airports. There is, however, one other aspect of his job that very few people take into consideration and that's the fact that they constantly have to change their clothes, sometimes five and six times a day. Naturally they want to look their best when they represent our organization at the news media, receptions, banquets, whatever. So, to all of our National Commanders, past, present and those who may serve in the future, I would like to dedicate this little song: "Changing Clothes Again. It seems I'm always changing clothes again, 'cause the life I love is going to meetings with my friends, so I can't wait to change my clothes again. Changing clothes again, going to Posts where I've never been, meeting Legionnaires I have never met before, so, I can't wait to change my clothes again. Changing clothes again, as I travel over each and every byway, yes, changing clothes again, sometimes in my car as I go down the highway, but I am doing it my way, changing clothes again. Although I know someday that it may end, so, until that time, my friends, please excuse me now and then, because I have to go and change my clothes again. Yes, I have to go and change my clothes again." Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: When I came into Maryland for my official visit, they surprised me and sang that song,

and I am sorry I didn't get a tape of it. I hope somebody taped it here today, because I might like to listen to that in five or six years.

I would like to invite our National Chaplain back up to the podium here for just a few minutes, and, Charlie, you have seven and a half minutes.

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN RICE: The Commander said we might run into a little bit of a lag so I got my head together with Peter, and I think we ought to start off singing some of the old World War I songs before we go into the other. Peter, what have you got for the first one.

The assembled Delegates joined in singing many World War I and II songs.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Thank you very much. I want to tell you what a great guy Charlie Rice is, our National Chaplain this year. He is just like all the rest of the National Officers, just great people to be around.

### INTRODUCTION

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: I do want to introduce my youngest brother and his wife, they just came in. So, would you just stand up, Earl Bacon and Jane Bacon. I would like to ask all of the Legionnaires here from the Department of Maryland to please stand up, including the Auxiliary. I want to express my personal thanks and appreciation to all of you for allowing me to serve not only in Maryland but as National Commander of The American Legion. Thank you very much.

Now we have some announcements, but first I would like to call on Rev. Charlie Rice.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN RICE: It is with sadness that I announce the passing of Mrs. E. A. Blackmore on Thursday, August 22, 1985. Jean was the widow of former National Adjutant, Emma Blackmore from Wyoming for whom the National Museum is named. He served from July 1956 to the time of his death in April 1967. The burial of Mrs. Blackmore will be in Indianapolis with a memorial service at 10:30 A.M., Monday, September 9 at the Flanner-Buchanan in Indianapolis. The family has requested memorials in lieu of flowers to the E. A. Blackmore Memorial Fund established by Department of Wyoming. Address your mail so noted and we will transfer it to the Post on your behalf. May the souls of the following fly forth for the mercy of God rest in peace and life will perpetually shine upon them.

### PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE AND COLORS FOR OUTGOING NATIONAL COMMANDER

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER KUNDE: Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to preside over a very special moment in this National Convention, The point of which we pause to present to our National Commander a plaque and colors of his year in office.

I will now call on Past National Commander Robert E. L. Eaton of the Department of Maryland to do the honors. Commander Eaton.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBERT E. L. EATON, Maryland: Ladies and gentlemen, the ceremonial color guard is The American Legion National Champion Color Guard, the Highlanders of Highland Post No. 201, Department of Kentucky. The color guard will prepare to retrieve the colors of the National Commander.

Distinguished guests, fellow Delegates to this Convention, it is my responsibility to present the colors and the plaque to our outgoing National Commander, an awesome responsibility and one which I approach with a great deal of humility. Clarence Bacon has been a great Commander, and this moment is an important one in his year as National Commander. We look at the colors that we march behind and we think of them often, but do we really remember all of the things they represent?

The national flag was established by the Continental Congress in 1777, and we as Americans marched behind it at Yorktown, at Fort McHenry where the waving of the flag inspired Francis Scott Key to write The Star Spangled Banner. At Gettysburg, at San Juan Hill, at the Battle of the Marne, at the landings in Normandy, the greatest amphibious landing since the Persians attempted to take Athens, at Enchan, at Kasong, and at all of those, that was the flag that we followed, and our National American Legion standard. It has been an inspirtion to us through the years. In 1935 Time Magazine published on the front cover a picture of John Thomas Daily, the then Director of your Veterans Legislative Division, and it said underneath he put three Presidents in their place. What he had done was pass legislation over the veto of President Collidge, President Hoover and President Roosevelt, and if you wonder how the Veterans Administration got established, there it is.

In going behind that standard after World War II, we passed the GI Bill of Rights, and so it goes through the years until right up to the present, and we haven't neglected national defense either, marching behind the Legion's standard.

In the days before World War II, in an effort to keep our country prepared, George Marshall, Secretary of the Army, gave us credit, The American Legion, for much of the progress, such progress as was made, and you recall that one month before Pearl Harbor the draft bill was renewed with only a one-vote margin, and even for that vote, General Marshall gave us credit for helping. After all, in national defense, we fought for universal military training which exists today and standby selective service and draft legislation which we support.

There again, gentlemen, the standards and the colors which our leaders are called upon to follow, and it is with a great deal of pride that we present those to our outgoing National Commander. At the same time, we present to him a plaque by which he can suitably display a record of his service.

The plaque reads, "National Commander Clarence M. Bacon, elected by the National Convention to serve the high office of National Commander of The American Legion for the year 1984-1985. In appreciation of dedication and recognition of his devoted service to God and country, and in token of the high esteem of his fellow Legionnaires, this citation is presented to him by authority of the National Executive Committee. Given on the 28th day of August, 1985, before the Delegates assembled at the 67th National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana."

These we present to you, Mr. Commander, as a symbol which we know you will honor and prize.

Perhaps you have thought that this is a mark or a symbol of the end of your service, but, that is not so, it is merely a beginning of the next phase, a phase which I know will begin a week from tomorrow with your meeting in Maryland of the key leaders to plot the plans for another year in Maryland. We look forward to continued service from you. Our congratulations.

### RETIREMENT OF COLORS

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Color guard, retire my colors. Right hand salute.

National Commander Bob Eaton, fellow Legionnaires, ladies and gentlemen. These colors and plaque will forever remain a symbol to me. First, a symbol of all the fine Legionnaires around the world I have had the privilege of representing during the past year.

Secondly, they will remind me of the accomplishments we have enjoyed this year and the enthusiasm with which they have been attained.

They will remind me that we are all one family, and that as a family we must not only respect and care for each other, we must work with a close family spirit to keep alive the principles of our organization. And they will serve as my inspiration to return to the ranks of Blue Cap Legionnaires and continue to work for the good of all Legionnaires and for all veterans. Thank you.

**INTRODUCTION**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: At this time I would like to introduce to you a lady that has contributed her entire adult life in the service of The American Legion. Would the Sergeant-at-Arms please bring Eileen Tharp up to the podium. Tomorrow marks the 40th year of service and dedication that this young lady has given to this organization.

**MRS. EILEEN THARP**
**Secretary to the National Commander**

Thank you very much.

I promise it is not going to be another 40 years before I leave.

* * *

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: I have an announcement that contributions for Mrs. E. A. Blackmore should be sent to the Department Headquarters of Wyoming, and that is the E. A. Blackmore Scholarship Fund.

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NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Now, I would like to ask our National Chaplain Charles Rice to come back and continue with the entertainment that he provided for us a few minutes ago.

* * *

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN CHARLES RICE: It wasn't because I forgot, but I got caught up a little bit short.

We are delighted to have so many of our young men who are part of the war in Vietnam with us. They had a very special song, too, that sort of welcomed them back to this country. Maybe they felt short-changed on parades and all that sort of stuff, but they weren't short-changed on the song that goes something like this, and you may join with me in the chorus.

. . . At this time Chaplain Rice lead the Delegation in the singing of I Left My Heart in San Francisco, followed by other songs participated in by the Delegation.

* * *

**ELECTION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Ladies and gentlemen, we now come to the special order of business, the Election of our National Officers.

As Chairman of this Convention, I now appoint as Judge of the Election, Robert N. Ford, III, Adjutant of Maryland, and as Tellers of the Election: James R. Quinlan, Adjutant of Iowa; Lee H. Wall, Adjutant of Mississippi; and James E. Tripp, Adjutant of Louisiana.

. . . Dale L. Renaud of Iowa was nominated and elected to the office of National Commander.

. . . National Commander Bacon administered the Oath of Office to Dale L. Renaud.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Ladies and gentlemen, the 1985-1986 National Commander of The American Legion Dale L. Renaud and his family.

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY**
**NATIONAL COMMANDER RENAUD, IOWA**

Thank you, Mr. Commander, and thank you Delegates. There are a few moments in the man's life which can equal this one. But, the real pleasure is in sharing with all Legionnaires these moments and the moments where we experience the rich mixture of The American Legion's great strength, where we share the knowledge that our organization will continue to march forward and where we fill ourselves with expectation, anticipation, enthusiasm and confidence.

You have given me the honor and the duty of representing each of you, and I pledge to you now that I will fulfill my duties with every ounce of energy and ability I possess, and I gratefully accept all the responsibilities you are entrusting to me.

Being elected National Commander of America's largest and finest Veterans organization is a long process, a long journey, not travelled alone, but travelled with family and friends. Please meet my traveling companions, the people who have given me encouragement, support and love: My wife, Pat.

My son Pete and the youngest but tallest Ann.

Our oldest daughter Nancy is attending Northwest Missouri in Marysville, Missouri, and could not be here, but Dr. Robert Forester is going to convey my best wishes to her upon his return to that campus.

There are also some other members of my family here today, and I'd like for them to stand and be recognized. My mother-in-law Mrs. B. E. Newell, Margaret; my sister and brother-in-law. My brother-in-law belongs to Post 396, my sister belongs to the unit, Peg and Gordon Nanson.

And my older brother Howard and Sally Renaud.

A special thanks also goes to the loyal and enthusiastic Legionnaires from the Department of Iowa, and especially to my Post No. 396 in Bondurant who number 148 Members strong, with a 12-year all-time high, and Members of the Auxiliary Unit 396. I wish they would all stand and be recognized by you with me. They have been pushing me all these years.

My fellow Legionnaires, we also march in the footsteps of great Legionnaires. Legionnaries who have safely and skillfully guided The American Legion through challenging times. For his outstanding leadership and accomplishments, especially during the past year, please join me in a salute to my special friend, National Commander Clarence Bacon.

Finally, my thanks to each of you and each of the Legionnaires in your Departments. You are the ones to whom we must answer, and it is your mandates where we will work to see accomplished, because, no matter what position you may hold in The American Legion, whether it's a brand new blue cap member in a small Post, or as National Commander, it is our solemn duty to believe in and fulfill the founding principles of our great organization.

Even though a tidal wave of change is sweeping across America, introducing new concepts and new technologies, our principles do not change. What we must do is continue to keep up with how we apply ourselves to those principles. The greatest strength of The American Legion is the quality of the people who are its Members. To meet the challenge of these times, The American Legion's goal must be to be in a position to respond to its Members' wants and needs.

Every Post, and, indeed, every Legionnaire, should have a plan of action.

My promise to you is that your National organization will initiate and continue to assist you in fulfilling your plan of action.

Each of the major programs which form the four pillars of our organization is founded in the principles of right and good.

**One,** Veterans Affairs, with its extensive programs of assistance to the 28 million Veterans of this nation, especially for the aging Veteran.

**Two,** our emphasis on a secure nation dedicated to liberty and the achievement of a permanent world peace.

**Three,** Americanism programs designed to emphasize the importance of sound education in the principles of democracy, freedom, and individual destiny; and

**Four,** our concern for children and youth, our concern for their happiness, their safety, and that they are raised in a wholesome family environment.

Following the principles of right and good in each of these programs is what has made The American Legion this nation's foremost volunteer organization which has the respect and admiration of every American.

This respect and admiration partly is the result of two things. First, Americans respect us because of the programs we implement at the local level, programs which have a tangible value to our communities. Secondly, we are admired because we draw our massive membership from a cross-section of America, and we are, without a doubt, an organization to be reckoned with.

Above that, The American Legion is an organization which plans for the future, and to emphasize that point, we would like to announce a joint plan of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.

We want to combine specific goals in two programs to achieve a third goal. The first goal is for every American Legion Post and its affiliated Auxiliary Unit to achieve at least 100% Membership in the 1986 Membership year. Secondly, we want the Post and Unit to accomplish jointly a community service project which benefits children and youth.

In the end the third goal is achieved, and this goal is that The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and our communities have profited from the project. The children and community have benefited from Legion and Auxiliary efforts, and The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary have benefited through increased Membership and satisfaction in a job well done.

Lastly, we pledge to you that The American Legion will remain responsive to you, its Members, and help you in any way possible in the fulfillment of the founding principles of our organization.

But we also ask your help. The American Legion is successful because of the work you do, the advice you offer, the information you provide.

Together we will respond to change and face the challenge of improving the solid history of success we have built over the last 66 years.

Again, my grateful thanks and appreciation for this honor, and I salute each and every one of you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Commander Renaud, I know that every Legionnaire across this country is going to be there when you need him to help you, and we all wish you a most successful year because every National Commander should be better than the one previous to him. So, good luck to you and best wishes. If there is anything any of us can do we will help you.

* * *

**NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDERS**

There were six nominations for the five National Vice Commander positions. They were as follows: Norman Conn, California; Vito DeFilipp, Maine; Bernard L. Black, South Carolina; Miles S. Epling, West Virginia; Leo P. Burke, California; and H.F. "Sparky" Gierke, North Dakota.

The Judge and the Tellers being in place, a roll call vote was held and the following five nominees were elected as National Vice Commanders: Norman Conn, California; Vito DeFilipp, Maine; Bernard L. Black, South Carolina; Miles Epling, West Virginia; and H. F. "Sparky" Gierke, North Dakota.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Would all the Vice Commanders please come up here, and, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to present to you the newly elected National Vice Commanders of The American Legion, Mr. Norman Conn of California, Mr. Vito DeFilipp of Maine, Mr. Bernard L. Black of South Carolina, Mr. Miles Epling of West Virginia, and Mr. H. F. "Sparky" Gierke of North Dakota.

* * *

**PRESENTATION OF COLORS TO NEWLY ELECTED COMMANDER**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: The Chair now recognizes Past National Commander Donald E. Johnson from the Department of Iowa for the purpose of presenting the Colors to the new National Commander. The Past National Commander Johnson.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DONALD E. JOHNSON: Mr. Commander, Delegates, Color Guard, present the Colors to the incoming National Commander of The American Legion.

National Commander Bacon, newly elected Commander Renaud, my fellow Delegates. This is the fourth time in the glorious history of The American Legion that an Iowan has been on this Convention stage to receive the Flag of the United States of America and the Banner of The American Legion, so, at this time it is my high honor and privilege beyond measure to present the Colors to Dale Renaud National Commander.

National Commander Renaud, to this man of Iowa's black soil, a Veteran of the seas, parent, entrepreneur, churchman and civic leader I first present the Star Spangle Banner which embodies all that man who yearn to be free desire.

Next, the Banner of The American Legion, the symbol of commitment to God and Country and the pledge of dedication to the cause of the disabled comrade and his family.

Dale, we all know that a year from now these Colors will have flown high and unblemished and there will be an added sparkle because of the energy, service, dedication and devotion you will have given. May God be with you as you enter this year of exceptional service.

Color Guard, return the Colors of the National Commander of The American Legion to Post.

* * *

**PRESENTATION OF NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON: Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my privilege to present to this Convention the newly elected

President of The American Legion Auxiliary Josie Melgard of California. Josie.

**GREETINGS**
**Josie Melgard**
**National President**
**The American Legion Auxiliary**

Thank you, Commander Bacon. Distinguished Legionnaires. I am so very proud to be eligible to belong to The American Legion Auxiliary. In my acceptance speech this morning, I pledged to serve The American Legion Auxiliary, America, and the Stars and Stripes Forever. That pledge goes also to The American Legion and my National Commander Dale.

The five words "The Stars And Stripes Forever" describes the very purpose of our organization, what every one of us works for and wants for America. That is why I have chosen it as my theme for the coming year. We have chosen it in the hopes that we can stir the patriotic hearts of the American people and to encourage those in our communities to march with us for God and Country and for the Veteran, for all those we serve.

Dale has told you about a first for our two organizations that we are excited about the fact that we are going to be working on a special project that will make America safer for our children and youth.

Our nation's Veterans once dreamed of peace, of home, of family and children, of a world made safe by their sacrifice. They dreamed of the Star and Stripes Forever about the kind of America that you and I work for. We can fulfill those dreams because there have been men and women who have served their country, because there are Veterans and Legionnaires, because there is an American Legion and an Auxiliary, I know that our dream of our children living under those beautiful Stars and Stripes Forever will come true. This will be our legacy to our children. Thank you.

* * *

**BENEDICTION**
**Rev. Charles G. Rice, Jr. (New York)**
**National Chaplain**

Go forth into this world of peace. Be of good courage, hold fast to that which is good, render to no one evil for evil, help the weak, strength the faint-hearted, keep faith in yourselves, your families, your communities, your country, and, most of all, in God. Amen.

* * *

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON. The Colors of our country are in place, please join with me in rendering a righthand salute.

The Delegation stood and saluted the Colors.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BACON. I now declare the 67th Annual National Convention of The American Legion adjourned sine die.

At 3:10 PM. the 67th Annual National Convention of The American Legion was adjourned sine die.

* * *

# ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL AWARDS AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

## August 26-28, 1985
## New Orleans, Louisiana

**The Henry D. Lindsley Trophy:** Awarded annually to the Department attaining the highest percentage of membership over its preceding year's membership by March 31.

**WINNER — Nevada (108.85%)**

**The North Carolina Trophy:** Awarded annually to the Department not included among the several state Departments or the Department of the District of Columbia attaining the highest percentage of membership as of March 31, over its preceding year's membership.

**WINNER — Department of Puerto Rico (86.06%)**

**General Henry Gourand Trophy:** Awarded annually to that Department in each of five categories established by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee, each of said Departments having been the first in its respective category to attain or exceed its nationally assigned membership quota (effective 1975). (Roman numerals denote categories).

**WINNERS — Category I-Flordia; Category II-Maryland; Category III-Washington; Category IV-Arizona; Category V-Nevada**

**The O.L. Bodenhamer Trophy:** Awarded annually to that Department designated to lead the parade at the time of the ensuing National Convention.

**WINNER — Nevada (119.85%)**

**General John J. Pershing Honor Award:** Awarded annually to that Department having the greatest percentage of its posts receiving the Honor Ribbon for having 100 percent or more, of the post's previous year's membership enrolled for the coming year by December 31, and having reported such achievement to National Headquarters by not later than January 31.

**WINNER — Wisconsin (37.15%)**

**The Arthur D. Houghton Sons of The American Legion Trophy:** Awarded annually to that Department of Sons of The American Legion in each of two membership size categories (I-1,999 members, II-1,000-2,999 members, III-over 3,000 members) each of said Detachments attaining the greatest percentage of increase over previous year's membership when compared with all Detachments in its category. (Roman numerals denote categories).

**WINNERS — 1984-I-Georgia/1984; II-New Hampshire/1984; III Pennsylvania**

**National Service Trophy:** Awarded annually to that State Department of The American Legion excelling in Welfare Work for War Veterans, providing the membership of that Department shall be no less than 80% of the membership of the preceding year.

**WINNER — Department of Minnesota**

**The Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. Trophy:** Awarded annually to that Department which has rendered the most outstanding service during the period Aug. 1 to Aug. 1 to the program of the Boy Scouts of America.

**WINNER — Department of South Carolina**

**The Ralph T. O'Neil Education Trophy:** Awarded annually to that Department within the continential limits of the United States showing greatest Americanism activity in use of The American Legion School Medal Awards.

**WINNER — Department of the District of Columbia**

**Hearst Trophy:** Awarded annually to that Department attaining the greatest number of percentage points compiled from information contained in the Consolidated Post Reports, and supporting Department narrative.

**WINNER — Department of Maryland**

**Spafford National Trophy:** Awarded annually to that Department of The American Legion having within its jurisdiction the winner of the National High School Oratorical Contest.

**WINNER — Wisconsin**

**Howard P. Savage Trophy:** Awarded annually to that Department having within its jurisdiction the Baseball Team which becomes the Champion as a result of playing in the American Legion "World Series."

**WINNER — Virginia (Midlothian Post No. 186, Midlothian, Virginia)**

**Commission of Baseball Trophy:** Awarded annually to the national championship team of the World Series of American Legion Baseball.

**WINNER — Midlothian Post No. 186, Midlothian, Virginia**

**Dr. Irvin L. "Click" Cowger R.B.I. Memorial Award:** Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player who is credited with the most runs batted in by the official scorers of the respective regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.

**WINNER — Mike Musolino, Carmichael Elks, Sacramento, California (20)**

**American Legion Baseball Player of the Year:** By virtue of a special arrangement with officials of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, an American Legion Baseball player is selected each year from the competing teams at the National Finals as the "American Legion Baseball Player of the Year." This player's picture is mounted upon a plaque and placed in the Game's Shrine at Cooperstown, New York. The selection is made on the basis of playing ability, integrity, mental attitude, cooperation, citizenship, sportsmanship and general good conduct.

**WINNER — Tris Lipscomb, Midlothian Post No. 186, Midlothian, Virginia**

**Rawlings "Big Stick" Award:** Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player who is credited with the most bases as determined by the official scorers of the respective regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.

**WINNER — Mike Musolino, Carmichael Elks, Sacramento, California (40)**

**Bob Feller Award:** Awarded annually to that American Legion

Baseball player participating in the Regional Tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball who records the greatest number of strikeouts in such competition.

**WINNER — Gregg Olson, Omaha Post No. 1, Omaha, NE (44)**

**Ford C. Frick Trophy:** Awarded annually to that Department having within its jurisdiction the runner-up in the National Finals of the Baseball program.

**WINNER — Carmichael Elks, Sacramento, California**

**The American Legion Military Academy Award:** Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class at the United States Military Academy with the highest standing in Chemistry.

**WINNER — Russell P. LaChance**

**The American Legion Naval Academy Award:** Awarded annually to that graduating midshipman at the United States Naval Academy who stands highest in those English, History and Government courses taken to complete a Foregin Affairs major.

**WINNER — Eric Wayne Olson, Orofino, Idaho**

**The American Legion Coast Guard Academy Award:** Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class at the United States Coast Guard Academy who is considered to have excellent personally in athletics.

**WINNER — Kevin P. Crawley, Largo, Florida.**

**The American Legion Air Force Academy Award:** Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class at the Air Force Academy who demonstrates the highest proficiency in all academic subjects.

**WINNER — Robert A. Kaucio, Jr., Newark, Delaware**

**Paul H. Griffith ROTC Trophy:** Awarded annually to that Department giving the highest degree of support to the ROTC program within its jurisdiction, based on criteria drawn up by the National Security Commission.

**WINNERS — Departments of: Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi and North Dakota.**

**The Lemuel Bolles Trophy:** Awarded annually to that band winning first prize in competition with all other bands during the annual National Convention.

**WINNER — Joliet Legion Band, Post 1284, Joliet, Illinois.**

**The Arch M. Cantrall Trophy:** Awarded annually to that American Legion Band winning first prize in competition with all other American Legion Bands during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.

**WINNER — Joliet Legion Band, Post 1284, Joliet, Illinois**

**The Glen R. Hillis Trophy:** Awarded annually to that Color Guard winning first prize in competition with all other Color Guards during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.

**WINNER — Lakeshore Post 137, Jacksonville, Florida**

**National American Legion Distinguished Service Medal Award: WINNER — Caspar W. Weinberger**

**International Amity Award:** Awarded by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee at such times and places as may be consistent and appropriate.

**WINNER — Ernesto P. Golez (Philippines); Armand Daigle (Canada)**

**Canadian Friendship Award:** Awarded by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee, at such times and places as may be consistent and appropriate.

**WINNERS — Hermon Merserean, Braintree, Massachusetts; Eric Berntson, Carievale, Saskatchewan, Canada; Jack K. Martin, San Diego, California; Frank Jefferies, Richmond, Ontario, Canada; Wayne Ross Bradt, Windsor, Ontario, Canada; Harry Meekran, Ontario, Canada; Andy Innes, Alberta, Canada; Edward Rafuse, New Brunswick, Canada; Arthur McKinley, New Brunswick, Canada; Laurent Maltaise, New Brunswick, Canada; Donald Moore, New Brunswick, Canada; and Reverend Ronald A. Moseley, DD, Nova Scotia, Canada.**

**Fourth Estate Award:** Awarded to press, radio, television, or other communications media; to associations of same; to owners, executive heads, or staff members; such award to be in recognition of outstanding service to community, state, or nation, which service shall have been in accordance with or the furtherance of established American Legion policies or programs.

**WINNER — Life Magazine**

**National Commander's Public Relations Award:** Awarded to an outstanding individual and/or organization for distinguished public service in the field of communications.

**WINNER — ABC Sports**

**Department Award for 100% Post Children & Youth Reporting:** Awarded annually to those Departments which achieve 100% of Posts indicating Children & Youth activity on Conschidated Post reports.

**WINNERS — Arkansas, Delaware, Maryland, Florida, North Dakota, Tennessee, Utah and Vermont. 100% Post Narrative — Minnesota.**

**Employer of the Year Award for Hiring Veterans:** Awarded to an employer in recognition of outstanding achievement in the employment and regaining of veterans.

**WINNERS — Category I — Owens-Illinois, Inc., Television Products Division, Pittstown, Pennsylvania; Category II — Molycorp, Inc., Washington, Pennsylvania**

## THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

### Balance Sheet

| | December 31 | |
|---|---|---|
| | **1984** | **1983** |
| **ASSETS** | | |
| **CURRENT FUND:** | | |
| Cash | $ 2,356,183 | $ 955,326 |
| Accounts receivable: | | |
| Emblem Division | 75,884 | 48,957 |
| Publications Division | 284,477 | 283,246 |
| Other | 164,994 | 132,843 |
| Accrued interest on investments | 439,296 | 500,757 |
| Inventories: | | |
| Emblem Division | 777,741 | 815,576 |
| Publications Division | 1,167,482 | 193,833 |
| Prepaid expenses and supplies | 182,908 | 179,128 |
| Postal deposits and other advances | 31,102 | 55,395 |
| | 5,480,067 | 3,165,061 |
| Investments—note 2: | | |
| Segregated for Designated Funds | 8,110,385 | 7,117,988 |
| Segregated for Washington, D.C. building | 503,007 | 477,901 |
| Other | 16,887,061 | 16,574,743 |
| | 25,500,453 | 24,170,632 |
| Property and equipment: | | |
| Washington, D.C. real estate: | | |
| Land | 80,000 | 80,000 |
| Building | 815,183 | 815,183 |
| Furniture, fixtures, and equipment in: | | |
| National Headquarters building, Indianapolis, Indiana | 1,349,304 | 1,187,944 |
| Washington, D.C. building | 309,715 | 299,573 |
| Capitalized leases — note 3 | 499,362 | 491,862 |
| | 3,053,564 | 2,874,562 |
| Deduct: Accumulated depreciation and amortization | 1,934,310 | 1,671,575 |
| | 1,119,254 | 1,202,987 |
| | 32,099,774 | 28,538,680 |
| **NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS — note 6:** | | |
| Overseas Graves Decoration Fund: | | |
| Cash | 40,713 | 9,347 |
| Accrued interest on investments | 7,360 | 6,778 |
| Investments | 509,462 | 494,398 |
| | 557,535 | 510,523 |
| Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund: | | |
| Cash | 82,750 | — |
| Accrued interest on investments | 52,875 | 27,166 |
| Investments | 4,644,540 | 4,150,015 |
| | 4,780,165 | 4,177,181 |
| | $37,437,474 | $33,226,384 |

See notes to financial statements.

**Exhibit A**

| | December 31 | |
|---|---|---|
| | **1984** | **1983** |
| **LIABILITIES AND FUNDS** | | |
| **CURRENT FUND:** | | |
| Liabilities | | |
| Accounts Payable | $ 999,798 | $ 967,213 |
| Capitalized lease obligations—note 3 | 180,654 | 308,645 |
| Deposits on Emblem merchandise sales | 152,646 | 115,005 |
| Funds in transit to The American Legion Life Insurance Trust | 945,973 | 562,981 |
| Deferred dues income | 11,087,160 | 11,050,352 |
| Accrued vacation benefits | 299,228 | 290,248 |
| Provision for health insurance liability | 45,000 | 45,000 |
| Other liabilities | 37,970 | 37,728 |
| Total liabilities | 13,748,429 | 13,377,172 |
| Fund balance—notes 4 and 5: | | |
| Restricted funds: | | |
| Oratorical Contest Fund | 150,291 | 121,700 |
| Other restricted funds | 39,306 | 31,827 |
| Designated funds: | | |
| The Restricted Fund | 5,954,266 | 4,978,501 |
| The Reserve Fund | 2,156,119 | 2,139,487 |
| Direct Member Solicitation Fund | 755 | 156,752 |
| | 8,300,737 | 7,428,267 |
| Appropriated funds | 1,397,477 | 1,438,078 |
| Unappropriated | 8,653,131 | 6,295,163 |
| Total fund balance | 18,351,345 | 15,161,508 |
| | 32,099,774 | 28,538,680 |
| **NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS — note 6:** | | |
| Overseas Graves Decoration Fund: | | |
| Fund balance | 557,535 | 510,523 |
| | 557,535 | 510,523 |
| Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund: | | |
| Fund balance | 4,780,165 | 4,177,181 |
| | 4,780,165 | 4,177,181 |
| | $37,437,474 | $33,226,384 |

## THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

### Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances

### Current Fund

| | Year Ended 1984 | |
|---|---|---|
| | Unappropriated | Appropriated Funds |
| **REVENUE:** | | |
| National dues | $13,953,081 | |
| Sales of Emblem items | 4,676,588 | |
| Advertising revenue | 2,810,010 | |
| Investment income | 2,091,056 | |
| American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation income received—note 7 | 580,612 | |
| Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion Life Insurance Trust—note 8 | 679,575 | |
| Restricted contributions | 42,500 | |
| Other income | 713,612 | |
| | 25,547,034 | |
| **EXPENSES:** | | |
| Salaries | 5,564,895 | |
| Employee benefits—note 9 | 1,245,329 | |
| Cost of Emblem items sold | 2,786,561 | |
| Direct publication expenses | 6,787,613 | |
| Executive and staff travel | 609,588 | |
| Commission and committee | 1,224,782 | |
| Operational | 1,753,206 | |
| Office | 956,817 | |
| Occupancy | 752,032 | |
| Special projects and programs | 1,107,953 | |
| | 22,788,776 | |
| **EXCESS OF REVENUE OTHER EXPENSES** | 2,758,258 | |
| **FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR** | 6,295,163 | $1,438,078 |
| **INTERFUND TRANSFERS—note 4** | ( 400,290) | |
| Adjustment to appropriated fund balance—note 5 | | ( 40,601) |
| **FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR** | $ 8,653,131 | $1,397,477 |

See notes to financial statements.

Exhibit B
Sheet 1

**December 31**

| Designated and Restricted Funds | Total Current Fund | 1983 Total Current Fund |
|---|---|---|
| | $13,953,081 | $14,064,208 |
| | 4,676,588 | 4,516,330 |
| | 2,810,010 | 3,046,671 |
| $ 592,107 | 2,683,163 | 2,253,208 |
| | 580,612 | 585,690 |
| 504,062 | 1,183,637 | 832,504 |
| 10,000 | 52,500 | 93,230 |
| 529,024 | 1,242,636 | 1,000,551 |
| 1,635,193 | 27,182,227 | 26,392,392 |
| | 5,564,895 | 5,255,478 |
| | 1,245,329 | 1,286,057 |
| | 2,786,561 | 2,649,172 |
| | 6,787,613 | 6,232,027 |
| | 609,588 | 605,993 |
| | 1,224,782 | 1,119,914 |
| | 1,753,206 | 1,692,926 |
| | 956,817 | 953,814 |
| | 752,032 | 786,113 |
| 1,163,013 | 2,270,966 | 1,212,528 |
| 1,163,013 | 23,951,789 | 21,794,022 |
| 472,180 | 3,230,438 | 4,598,370 |
| 7,428,267 | 15,161,508 | 10,563,138 |
| 400,290 | — | — |
| | ( 40,601) | — |
| $8,300,737 | $18,351,345 | $15,161,508 |

(Exhibit B
Sheet 2)

**THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances**

**Designated and Restricted Funds**

**Year Ended December 31, 1984**

| | Designated Funds | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **The Restricted Fund** | **The Reserve Fund** | **Direct Member Solicitation Fund** |
| **REVENUE:** | | | |
| Investment income | $ 575,475 | $ 16,632 | |
| Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion Life Insurance Trust — note 8 | | | $ 395,062 |
| Restricted contributions | | | |
| Income from Direct Member Solicitation Program | | | 529,024 |
| | 575,475 | 16,632 | 924,086 |
| **EXPENSE:** | | | |
| Special projects and programs | | | 1,080,083 |
| **EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES** | 575,475 | 16,632 | ( 155,997) |
| **FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR** | 4,978,501 | 2,139,487 | 156,752 |
| **INTERFUND TRANSFERS — note 4** | 400,290 | | |
| **FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR** | $5,954,266 | $2,156,119 | $ 755 |

See notes to financial statements.

Exhibit B
Sheet 2

| Restricted Funds | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Oratorical Contest Fund** | **Other Restricted Funds** | **Total Designated And Restricted Funds** |
| | | $ 592,107 |
| $109,000 | | 504,062 |
| | $10,000 | 10,000 |
| | | 529,024 |
| 109,000 | 10,000 | 1,635,193 |
| 80,409 | 2,521 | 1,163,013 |
| 28,591 | 7,479 | 472,180 |
| 121,700 | 31,827 | 7,428,267 |
| | | 400,290 |
| $150,291 | $39,306 | $8,300,737 |

(Exhibit B
Sheet 1)

## THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

### Notes to Financial Statements

**NOTE 1—SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:**

**General:** The American Legion National Headquarters (the Legion) is a national veterans organization which was declared to be a corporate body by an Act of the United States Congress on Sepetember 16, 1919. The Legion acquired all of the assets and assumed all of the liabilities of the predecessor unincorporated national organization of the same name.

**Basis of Presentation:** The Legion generally reports for financial statement purposes on the accrual method of accounting, recognizing income when earned and expenses when incurred.

The Legion maintains its accounts on a fund accounting basis wherein the accountability for certain segments of its operations are presented in specific designated and restricted fund balances. Further, the Legion has designated certain amounts for future projects or purposes, which amounts are presented as appropriated funds in the accompanying financial statements.

The revenue and expenses of nonexpendable funds are not included in the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances — Current Fund. Instead, they are recorded directly to the nonexpendable funds involved as set forth in the footnotes to the financial statements.

The amounts shown for 1983 in the accompanying Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances — Current Fund are included only to provide a basis for comparison with 1984 amounts.

**Accounts Receivable:** The direct charge-off method is used to account for losses in collection of accounts receivable. An allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable is considered unnecessary by the Legion because all significant accounts expected to be uncollectible have been written off.

**Inventories:** Inventories, which consist of Emblem items held for sale and magazine paper and publication rights, are valued at the lower of cost or market. Supplies which are not intended for sale are expensed when purchased.

**Investments:** Investments are recorded at cost. Premiums or discounts on investments are generally recognized at the time of disposal or maturity.

**Property and Equipment:** Furniture, fixtures and equipment are carried at cost and are depreciated beginning in the year after acquisition on the straight-line method based on the estimated useful lives of the assets involved. Leasehold improvements and repairs are expensed when incurred.

Depreciation on the Washington, D.C. building, which was constructed in 1951, is computed on the straight-line method using a fifty-year life. Beginning in 1969, investments approximately equal to the accumulated depreciation on the building have been segregated. Income on these investments is unrestricted.

**Income:** Dues are recognized as income in the applicable membership period which is on a calendar-year basis.

Income from The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation and The American Legion Life Insurance Trust are recorded when received. These receipts are for projects and programs conducted in the year of receipt.

**Pension Plan:** The Legion has a defined-benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees, as well as those of certain affiliated and subordinated groups. The plan was established in 1944 by vote of the Legion's National Convention. Contributions to the plan are made by the Legion and other participating groups on the basis of annual actuarial valuations. The annual cost, as determined by the actuary, is computed using the aggregate-cost method and includes in normal cost any past service costs.

**Federal Income Tax:** The Legion is exempt from federal income tax (except on unrelated business income) under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.

## NOTE 2 — INVESTMENTS (CURRENT FUND):

The cost and market value of Current Fund investments are as follows:

| | December 31 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1984 | | 1983 | |
| | Cost | Market Value | Cost | Market Value |
| Segregated for Designated Funds: | | | | |
| U.S. Government obligations | $ 7,832,924 | $ 8,093,383 | $ 6,988,717 | $ 6,803,000 |
| Accrued interest — restricted | 188,110 | 188,110 | 125,349 | 125,349 |
| Univested cash | 89,351 | 89,351 | 3,922 | 3,922 |
| | 8,110,385 | 8,370,844 | 7,117,988 | 6,932,271 |
| Segregated for Washington, D.C. building: | | | | |
| U.S. Government obligations | 503,007 | 489,506 | 477,901 | 447,586 |
| Other: | | | | |
| U.S. Government obligations | 16,687,061 | 16,946,581 | 16,474,743 | 16,024,407 |
| Certificate of deposit | 200,000 | 200,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| | 16,887,061 | 17,146,581 | 16,574,743 | 16,124,407 |
| Total investments | $25,500,453 | $26,006,931 | $24,170,632 | $23,504,264 |

## NOTE 3 — CAPITAL AND OPERATING LEASES:

The Legion has entered into lease agreements (which are accounted for as capital leases) for the rental of computer and copying equipment. The Legion has options to purchase the equipment or to extend the leases at the end of the original lease terms. The Legion is liable for property taxes, insurance, and repairs and maintenance in connection with the leased equipment. Cost and accumulated amortization of capitalized leases were $499,362 and $299,700 at December 31, 1984 and $491,862 and $199,800 at December 31, 1983. Further minimum payments on these leases, together with the present value of the payments, are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Years ending December 31: | |
| 1985 | $152,780 |
| 1986 | 28,104 |
| 1987 | 34,988 |
| Total future minimum payments | 215,872 |
| Less: Amount representing interest (approximately 16%) | 35,218 |
| Present value of future minimum payments | $180,654 |

The Legion also rents other computer equipment, copiers, and cash registers under operating leases. Total rental expense on these operating leases was approximately $96,000 in 1984 and $145,000 in 1983.

In addition, the Legion has a lease with the State of Indiana for rental of the National Headquarters building in Indianapolis through November, 1985. According to the terms of the lease, in lieu of rental payments the Legion is required to maintain the interior of the building, as well as provide adequate insurance on the building. The cost of maintenance and insurance approximated $281,000 in 1984 and $260,000 in 1983. The Legion has the option of renewing the lease on the same terms through November, 1989.

## NOTE 4 — RESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS:

Receipts which are restricted by the donor are credited to the appropriate restricted fund, against which all expenditures for the related project or program are charged. Periodically, the Legion may add to restricted funds through allocations from unappropriated funds for specific future purposes and projects.

The Restricted Fund, a designated fund, is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund, as well as principal, can be expended only on the recommendation of the National Finance Committee and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee at two successive meetings. It is the policy of The American Legion to transfer 10% of the prior year's net income to the Restricted Fund. The effect of this for 1984 is $400,290.

The Reserve Fund, a designated fund, also is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund may be used for the general operations of the Legion, but the principal can be expended only:

(a) By action of the Legion at its National Convention, or

(b) By two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee in two successive meetings not less than sixty days apart.

## NOTE 5 — APPROPRIATED FUNDS AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS:

There were no interfund transfers between unappropriated and appropriated funds. The balances of appropriated funds were as follows:

| | December 31 | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1984 | 1983 |
| Publications Reserve | $ 397,939 | $ 397,939 |
| Real Estate Reserve | 841,977 | 841,977 |
| Convention Reserve | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Employee Insurance Premium Stabilization Reserve | 57,561 | 98,162 |
| Totals | $1,397,477 | $1,438,078 |

During 1984, the National Finance Commission approved reducing the Employee Insurance Premium Stabilization Reserve to offset an increase in health insurance premiums. This action resulted in a reduction of the reserve of $40,601.

## NOTE 6 — NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS:

The earnings of the Overseas Graves Decoration Fund are being used to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those who served in the United States armed forces who are buried overseas. The Fund is to continue at the will of the National Convention of the Legion of the National Executive Committee. The Fund's trust agreement may be amended, changed or succeeded at the will of the National Executive Committee, provided that the purpose for which the Fund was created is retained.

In October, 1974, the National Executive Committee approved the establishment of a life membership plan available to any member of a participating department. In accordance with the plan, the assets of the Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund are segregated in a trust account from which funds equal to the annual dues of life members are withdrawn for current operations each year. The trust agreement provides that the Legion has the right to withdraw part or all of the assets of the trust account and to modify or terminate the trust agreement at its discretion.

**Changes in Nonexpendable Funds during the year ended December 31, 1984 are as follows:**

| | Overseas Graves Decoration Fund | Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund |
|---|---|---|
| **REVENUE:** | | |
| Paid-Up-For-Life membership dues collected | | $ 657,390 |
| Investment Income | $ 59,071 | 476,866 |
| | 59,071 | 1,134,256 |
| **Expenses:** | | |
| Membership dues withdrawn | | 451,958 |
| Decoration of graves: | | |
| European Theatre | 11,529 | |
| Philippine Islands | 500 | |
| Administrative expense | 30 | 67,292 |
| Trust fees | | 12,022 |
| | 12,059 | 531,272 |
| Excess of revenue over expenses | 47,012 | 602,984 |
| Fund balances, January 1, 1984 | 510,523 | 4,177,181 |
| Fund balances, December 31, 1984 | $557,535 | $4,780,165 |

The cost and market value of investments in the Nonexpendable Funds are as follows:

| | December 31 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1984 | | 1983 | |
| | Cost | Market Value | Cost | Market Value |
| **Overseas Graves Decoration Fund:** | | | | |
| U.S. Government obligations | $ 509,462 | $ 513,960 | $ 494,398 | $ 487,782 |
| **Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund:** | | | | |
| U.S. Government obligations | $2,694,558 | $2,750,294 | $1,358,622 | $1,362,893 |
| Commercial paper | 217,000 | 217,000 | 217,000 | 217,000 |
| Money market accounts | 1,110,694 | 1,110,694 | 2,452,012 | 2,452,012 |
| Common stocks | 622,288 | 702,038 | 122,381 | 174,987 |
| Total investments | $4,644,540 | $4,780,026 | $4,150,015 | $4,206,892 |

## NOTE 7 — AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND CORPORATION:

The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation (the Endowment Fund) was incorporated in 1925 as a not-for-profit corporation with perpetual existence to act as trustee for The American Legion Endowment Fund, which was created to provide permanent funding for rehabilitation of American veterans and assistance to orphans of veterans. In August, 1946, the Legion transferred securities having a market value of $2,001,000 to the Endowment Fund. The assets transferred have been held segregated by the Endowment Fund and the principal related to the 1946 transfer, which had a market value of $1,655,302 at December 31, 1984, may be withdrawn by the Legion, if needed, for rehabilitation of veterans or assistance to orphans of veterans.

Income earned on the investments of the Endowment Fund, net of administrative expenses, is payable to the Legion to support its programs for the above-mentioned purposes. In addition to the amount received from the Endowment Fund of $580,612 in 1984, there was $164,350 at December 31, 1984, in net investment earnings of the Endowment Fund, which was payable to the Legion.

## NOTE 8 — LIFE INSURANCE TRUST:

In connection with The American Legion's Life Insurance Plan, the Legion has created a Trust to which the First National Bank of Kansas City, Missouri, as Trustee, holds legal title. The accumulated earnings of the Trust funds and any experience rating refunds and dividends received from the insurors, which aggregate to approximately $5,126,000 as of December 31, 1984, are available for any of the following purposes, if approved by the Legion:

(a) To increase the Trust fund.

(b) To reduce or pay in full the life insurance premiums thereafter due from participants.

(c) To provide additional life insurance benefits for the participants.

(d) To make refunds to the participants.

(e) To make distributions to the Legion in support of its activities and programs serving the interest of the Legion and its members, provided that such distributions are not disapproved in writing by a majority of the participants.

In accordance with the provisions of item (e) above, the Legion's National Executive Committee has approved partial funding of the oratorical contest, Boys' Nation, American Legion Baseball, and other programs of the Legion. At December 31, 1984, $844,042 in Trust Funds had been approved for use in designated programs during 1985.

## NOTE 9 — PENSION PLAN:

Pension expense under the defined-benefit pension plan in which the Legion participates was $508,105 in 1984. Accumulated plan benefit information, as estimated by the plan's actuary, and net assets of the plan allocable to The American Legion National Headquarters were as follows:

| | January 1 | |
|---|---|---|
| | **1984** | **1983** |
| Actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits: | | |
| Vested | $ 9,480,679 | $ 9,087,237 |
| Nonvested | 1,029,383 | 1,009,019 |
| Total | $10,510,062 | $10,096,256 |
| Net assets available for plan benefits (at market value) | $11,684,688 | $10,889,727 |

The assumed rate of return used in determining the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits was 6%.

## NOTE 10 — LITIGATION:

The Legion is curently involved as a co-defendant in several legal actions. It is the opinion of the National Judge Advocate that any ultimate liability of the Legion will not be material to the financial statements.

**Supplementary Information**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**Analysis of Unappropriated Revenue And Expenses by Function**

**Year Ended December 31, 1984**

**General**

| | National Officers, Commissions And Committees | Internal Programs (primarily Indianapolis) | External Activities (primarily Washington, D.C.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **REVENUE:** | | | |
| National dues | | | |
| Sales of Emblem items | | | |
| Advertising revenue | | | |
| Investment income | | | |
| American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation income received | | | |
| Amounts withdrawn from American Legion Life Insurance Trust Fund | | | |
| Restricted contributions | | | |
| Other income | | | |
| **EXPENSE:** | | | |
| Salaries | $ 211,980 | $1,965,818 | $584,568 |
| Employee benefits | 48,712 | 441,327 | 131,078 |
| Cost of Emblem items sold | | | |
| Direct publication expenses | | | |
| Executive and staff travel | 298,149 | 184,583 | 49,676 |
| Commission and committee | 1,170,660 | 40,724 | |
| Operational | 5,054 | 1,107,205 | 58,029 |
| Office | 1,220 | 231,889 | 126,962 |
| Occupancy | | 73,664 | 124 |
| Special projects and programs | 12,481 | 993,927 | 38,431 |
| | $1,748,256 | $5,039,137 | $988,888 |
| **EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSES** | | | |

Schedule 1

| Functions | | | Self-Supporting Functions | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Administration** | | **Total General Functions** | **Emblem Division** | **Publications Division** | **Total All Functions** |
| **Indianapolis** | **Washington, D.C.** | | | | |
| | | $ 7,610,921 | | $6,342,160 | $13,953,081 |
| | | | $4,676,588 | | 4,676,588 |
| | | | | 2,810,010 | 2,810,010 |
| | | 2,091,056 | | | 2,091,056 |
| | | 580,612 | | | 580,612 |
| | | 679,575 | | | 679,575 |
| | | 42,500 | | | 42,500 |
| | | 535,973 | 2,486 | 175,153 | 713,612 |
| | | 11,540,637 | 4,679,074 | 9,327,323 | 25,547,034 |
| $1,406,071 | $416,982 | 4,585,419 | 423,331 | 556,145 | 5,564,896 |
| 312,303 | 92,594 | 1,026,014 | 94,536 | 124,779 | 1,245,329 |
| | | | 2,786,561 | | 2,786,561 |
| | | | | 6,787,613 | 6,787,613 |
| 15,389 | 12,480 | 560,277 | 26,925 | 22,386 | 609,588 |
| 13,398 | | 1,224,782 | | | 1,224,782 |
| 213,682 | 22,626 | 1,406,596 | 224,460 | 122,141 | 1,753,206 |
| 139,000 | 73,426 | 572,607 | 247,679 | 136,531 | 956,817 |
| ( 250,859) | 196,362 | 18,291 | 227,865 | 505,876 | 752,032 |
| 47,176 | 15,838 | 1,107,953 | | | 1,107,953 |
| $1,896,250 | $829,408 | 10,501,939 | 4,031,366 | 8,255,471 | 22,788,776 |
| | | $ 1,038,698 | $ 647,708 | $1,071,852 | $ 2,758,258 |

## THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

### Reconciliation of Audited Financial Statements to Internal Financial Statements Year Ended December 31, 1984

| | Total Current Fund |
|---|---|
| **EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES— INTERNAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** Page 94 | $2,758,258 |
| **ADD:** Excess of revenue over expenses for certain designated and restricted funds not included in internal financials — principally The Restricted Fund | 472,180 |
| **EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES— AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—** exhibit B, sheet 1 (page 95) | $3,230,438 |

## American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation

### Robert Charles Smith (LA) President

Forseeing the necessity of a recurring income source for funding its war veterans rehabilitation and child welfare programs, The American Legion conducted a national campaign in 1925 which raised approximately $5 million for this purpose. The funds contributed were entrusted to the custody of the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation.

The Corporation was incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware in 1925 and a trust agreement between The American Legion and the Corporation was signed in accordance with which the funds are administered by the Corporation with the annual net investment income being paid to The American Legion for use in the two programs involved.

The operations and financial condition of the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation for each of the last five years are summarized below (taken from the annual audit reports prepared by Geo. S. Olive & Co., Indianapolis, Indiana).

| | December 31 1984 | December 31 1983 | December 31 1982 | December 31 1981 | December 31 1980 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total assets | $7,340,044 | $7,314,933 | $7,310,964 | $7,316,357 | $7,294,883 |
| Investments—at cost | $7,250,912 | $7,243,536 | $7,221,538 | $7,120,407 | $7,170,044 |
| Interest income | $ 626,405 | $ 616,218 | $ 639,065 | $ 629,892 | $ 605,235 |
| Expenses | 27,469 | 23,225 | 20,920 | 25,712 | 26,866 |
| Excess of income over expense | $ 598,936 | $ 592,993 | $ 618,145 | $ 604,180 | $ 578,369 |
| Funds transferred to The American Legion | $ 580,612 | $ 585,690 | $ 606,384 | $ 602,850 | $ 593,711 |
| Average yield on book value of investments | 8.92% | 8.80% | 8.85% | 8.73% | 8.67% |

# THE AMERICAN LEGION 67TH ANNUAL REPORT

## FOREWORD

The American Legion's theme during the past year was "Get Involved—We're Winning." Under the leadership of National Commander Clarence M. Bacon and with the support of 2.7 million members in 16,000 posts throughout the nation and overseas, the Legion has completed another year of rich and rewarding service to America and its veterans.

The American Legion national headquarters is located in Indianapolis, Indiana. In addition to the Indianapolis facilities, an office is maintained in Washington, D.C., housing those organization functions that require a close working relationship with the Congress and the appropriate agencies of the Federal Government. The American Legion's Magazine publisher also is located in Indianapolis, and the editor and editorial staff are located in The American Legion's Indianapolis offices.

The National Commander's report is published herein as a part of the Convention proceedings. Reports of the other national officers, the national commissions, financial statement with accompanying data, and a report of the National President of The American Legion Auxiliary are also included. These reports and other materials summarize the activities of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary during an action-packed year in which the two organizations, true to their tradition, provided vital leadership to the Nation and contributes significantly to the preservation of its institutions. We are proud of our accomplishments and look forward with confidence to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

ROBERT W. SPANOGLE,
*National Adjutant.*



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# EXCERPTS FROM CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

## ARTICLE II

### NATURE

Section 1. THE AMERICAN LEGION is a civilian organization; membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in the Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any convention or meeting of the Legion.

Section 2. THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

## ARTICLE III

Section 1. THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be organizated in departments and these in turn in posts. There shall be one department in each state, in the District of Columbia, and there may be one department in each territory in insular possession of the United States. The National Executive Committee may establish posts in the territorial and insular possessions of the United States and foreign countries, and shall designate the department under whose jurisdiction they shall function, but this shall in no way affect the status of departments already established.

## ARTICLE IV

### ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. Any person shall be eligible for membership in THE AMERICAN LEGION who was a member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States and assigned to active duty at some time during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950, to January 31, 1955; December 22, 1961, to May 7, 1975; all dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of his entry therein, served on active duty in the armed forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of said periods; provided however, that such service shall have been terminated by honorable discharge or honorable separation, or continued honorably after any of said periods; provided, further, that no person shall be entitled to membership who, being in such service during any of said periods, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service.

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually or for life.

Section 3. No person may be a member at any one time of more than one Post.

Section 4. No person, who has been expelled by a Post shall be admitted to membership in another Post, without the consent of the expelling Post except that where such consent has been asked for and denied by such Post, he may then appeal to the Executive Committee of the Department of the expelling Post for Permission to be admitted to membership in another Post, and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted.

## ARTICLE V

Section 1. The legislative body of THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be the National Convention, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and By-Laws. . . .

Section 3. In the National Convention each Department shall be entitled to five delegates and one additional delegate for each one thousand members, or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer 30 days prior to the meeting of said Convention and whose registration fees, as fixed by the National Executive Committee, for its total authorized delegate, strength, have been paid, and to one alternative for each delegate. The delegate shall be chosen not less than two weeks before the National Convention at Department Conventions or in any other manner specified by any Department Constitution.

Section 4. Each duly registered delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any registered delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the registered delegates present from his Department. Alternates for registered delegates shall have all the privileges of registered delegates except that of voting. A registered delegate is one who has received his credentials after his registration fee has been paid.

Section 5. A quorum shall exist at a National Convention when sixty percent of the Departments are represented as provided above . . . .

## ARTICLE VI

Section 1. The National Convention shall elect a National Commander, and five National Vice-Commanders, who shall serve without seniority. No two Vice-Commanders shall be chosen from the same Department. No person shall be eligible for re-election to the office of National Commander or National Vice-Commander.

Section 2. Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding National Convention following their election and thereafter until their successors are chosen. Vacancies in these offices occurring between National Conventions shall be filled by election by the National Executive Committee, and any member of THE AMERICAN LEGION in good standing, shall be eligible for election to such vacancy. Provided, however, that no Past National Commander or Post National Vice-Commander shall be elected to fill any vacancy in these respective offices.

Section 3. The National Executive Committee at its first meeting following the National Convention shall appoint the National Adjutant, National Historian, such officers to hold office at the pleasure of the appointing power. All persons having the custody of fund shall give adequate bonds which shall be approved by the National Executive Committee.

Section 4. All Post National Commanders, while in good standing in their respective posts, shall be members for life of the National Executive Committee, without vote, and shall also be life delegates to all National Conventions of THE AMERICAN LEGION, with vote, to be excercised by them with their respective Departments.

## ARTICLE VII

### NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Between National Conventions, the administrative power shall be vested in the National Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the National Commander, the National Vice-Commanders, and one National Executive Committeeman and one alternate from each Department to be elected as such Department shall determine, the alternate to vote only in the absence of the committeeman.

# THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

Hamilton Fish, New York
George N. Craig, Indiana
Erle Cocke, Jr., Georgia
J. Addington Wagner, Michigan
W.C. Daniel, Virginia
John S. Gleason, Jr., Illinois
Preston J. Moore, Oklahoma
Martin B. McKneally, New York
William R. Burke, California
Charles L. Bacon, Missouri
Daniel F. Foley, Minnesota
Donald E. Johnson, Iowa
L. Eldon James, Virginia
John E. Davis, North Dakota
William E. Galbraith, Nebraska
J. Milton Patrick, Oklahoma
Alfred P. Chamie, California
John H. Geiger, Illinois
Joe L. Matthews, Texas
Robert E.L. Eaton, Maryland
James M. Wagonseller, Ohio
Harry G. Wiles, Kansas
William J. Rogers, Maine
Robert Charles Smith, Louisiana
John M. (Jack) Carey, Michigan
Frank I. Hamilton, Indiana
Michael J. Kogutek, New York
Jack W. Flynt, Texas
Al Keller, Jr., Illinois
Keith Kreul, Wisconsin
Clarence M. Bacon, Maryland

## National Executive Committeemen

Andrew J. Cooper, Alabama
Robert G. Blair, Alaska
Dr. Charles L. Vawter, Jr., Arizona
Lawrence E. Fisher, Arkansas
Donald A. Drumheller, California
J. Archie Corriveau, Canada
Charles Pat Smith, Colorado
Henry S. Bialoglowy, Connecticut
John K. Simons, Delaware
Richard Billig, District of Columbia
A.L. "Tony" Ulchar, Florida
William S. Lombardo, France
W.D. Harrell, Georgia
Kenneth McAtee, Hawaii
Conrad Chisholm, Idaho
Charles Kinkade, Illinois
Gilbert E. Sheeks, Indiana
Mark J. Studer, Iowa
Frank C. Bottigliero, Italy
U.S. "Udie" Grant, Kansas
Norbert H. Gadlage, Kentucky
Carroll B. Fields, Louisiana
Anthony G. Jordan, Maine
Robert W. Neal, Maryland
John P. Comer, Massachusetts
Harry Wright, Mexico
Vernon L. Henrichs, Michigan
Donald R. Schroedl, Minnesota
Fred M. Ingellis, Mississippi
William F. Liddle, Missouri
David Shannon, Montana
Wayne Davis, Nebraska
Charles F. Langel, Nevada
M. Ray Olmstead, New Hampshire
Warren R. Davies, New Jersey
Robert W. Durand, New Mexico
John J. Harris, New York
Robert A. Tart, North Carolina
Robert E. Hennessy, North Dakota
Thomas L. Gabel, Ohio
Tom C. Smith, Oklahoma
T. Les Galloway, Oregon
Ricardo R. Machado, Panama Canal
Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania
Eligio Tionamba, Philippines
Luis A. Andujar, Puerto Rico
Raymond S. Sanchas, Rhode Island
E. Roy Stone, Jr., South Carolina
Donald Clarke, South Dakota
John J. Maddux, Jr., Tennessee
Harvey Holcomb, Texas
William E. Christoffersen, Utah
John Morrisey, Vermont
Emmett B. Burley, Virginia
Willard H. (Bill) Dunn, Washington
Jack T. Gribben, West Virginia
Ted Mallow, Wisconsin
Frank M. Shaffer, Wyoming

## 1984–85 Alternate National Executive Committeemen

Floyd E. Fann, Sr., Alabama
Joseph T. Craig, Alaska
Donald Joe Whalen, Arizona
Leon Reed, Arkansas
Robert J. Lauer, Delaware
Robert L. Waters, District of Columbia
George L. Derrick, Florida
Joseph F. Owens, France

Horace E. Borders, Georgia
Sanford B. Ellis, Hawaii
Lyle Hupfer, Idaho
Firman Henricks, Illinois
Keith Brown, Indiana
Leo Maynard, Iowa
John Fornacca, Italy
Paul Smith, Kansas
Joseph K. Goodness, Kentucky
Paul Severson, Louisiana
Franklin R. Donley, Maine
Talage C. Carawan, Maryland
Dominick Genetti, Massachusetts
George D. Triplett, Mexico
Glenn H. Ainslie, Michigan
Harlan Buck, Minnesota
Henry Macoy, Mississippi
Jerome Roach, Missouri
William Petersen, Montana
Roger Wild, Nebraska
Jack M. Howell, Nevada
John Homan, California
Theodore H. Snow, Canada
James N. McHeal, Colorado
Lionel F. Dugas, Connecticut
Joseph E. Caouette, New Hampshire
James H. Hall, New Jersey
Ernest A. Wheaton, New Mexico
William P. McLaughlin, New York
Colon Furr, North Carolina
Milton W. Kane, North Dakota
Dominic V. Belloni, Ohio
Charles LeRoy Brown, Oklahoma
Herbert A. Lindner, Oregon
Romeo J. Routhier, Panama Canal
Joseph V. Adams, Pennsylvania
James Ray, Philippines
Faustino Espinosa, Puerto Rico
N. Pio Stizza, Rhode Island
John L. Ferguson, South Carolina
Gerald Goetzinger, South Dakota
James T. Waters, Tennessee
George H. Skelly, Texas
Clarence W. Jones, Utah
Charles LeBeau, Vermont
Murray B. York, Virginia
Howard Lanctot, Washington
James M. Shade, West Virginia
James Williams, Wisconsin
David E. Nauman, Wyoming

**Commission, Committee, and Employees**

The National Executive Committee, upon nomination by the National Commander, appoints the following standing commissions: National Americanism Commission, National Commission on Children and Youth, National Convention Commission, National Economic Commission, National Foreign Relations Commission, National Internal Affairs Commission, National Legislative Commission, The American Legion Magazine Commission, National Public Relations Commission, National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and National Security Commission.

The National Executive Committee provides for the appointment and employment of such subordinate officers and employees as may be needed for the administration of The American Legion, and prescribes their duties and emoluments.

## REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

ROBERT S. (BOB) TURNER, Georgia

One year ago in Salt Lake City, Utah, I assumed the duties of National Vice Commander with the responsibility of working with the states of Georgia, Florida, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Texas, Virginia, Maryland, Oklahoma, Louisiana, the District of Columbia, and the outlaying territories of Puerto Rico, Mexico, and the Panama Canal.

Never in my wildest dreams did I expect a year so filled with fun, fellowship, and travel. With the exception of Alabama, I had the opportunity to visit all the states under my jurisdiction, and also the District of Columbia.

As of this writing, the states under my jurisdiction are ahead of the membership target. To everyone who has worked so hard to make this year a success, I extend my sincere thanks. I also wish to express my appreciation to all the states for the many courtesies extended me during my visits. A very special thanks to my home post—Barnett-Harris Post 15, Griffin, GA, to the Department of Georgia, and to my family and friends for their love and support.

While everything listed was an experience I will never forget, there were a few highlights of my year that I would like to share with the readers of this report. I had the opportunity to visit the only American Legion sponsored Childrens Home in the United States. The home is located in Oklahoma, and it was my privillege to spend a day with a group of very special young people there. The Department of Oklahoma is to be commended for the fine job they are doing with this project.

It was a very touching experience to participate in the dedication of the Vietnam Statue, and the turnover of the vietnam Monument in Washington, D.C. to the National Park Service during Veterans Day weekend. The Weekend was certainly one of the major events of my year as National Vice Commander. The sharing of the

podium with President and Mrs. Reagan and the participating in the candlelight vigil for the MIA/POWs made it a most memorable occasion.

In July, I had the opportunity to represent the National Organization at the meeting in Washington, D.C. of the National League of Families of MIA/POWs and to accept an award from the League to The American Legion for our support of their efforts.

The following is a partial list of my activities during my year as your National vice Commander:

October 5-6, 1984. Commander's Homecoming, Baltimore, MD.
October 7-11, 1984. Fall Meeting Indianapolis, IN.
October 19-21, 1984. Region III National Leadership Workshop, Mobile, AL.
November 10-11, 1984. Represented the National Organization at Vietnam Statue Dedication, Washington, DC.—Shared podium with President and Mrs. Reagan.
November 16-17, 1984. Visit to South Carolina, Columbia, SC.
January 11-13, 1985. Visit to North Carolina.
January 25-27, 1985. Visit to Louisiana, LaFayette, LA.
February 8-10, 1985. Visit to Texas, Odessa, TX.
March 3-6, 1985. Visit to Texas, Odessa, TX.
March 15-17, 1985. Visit to Virginia, Lynchburg, VA.
March 22-24, 1985. Visit to Georgia, Macon, GA.
March 26, 1985. Zone Meeting, Greenville, SC.
April 19-21, 1985. Visit to Oklahoma, Ponca City & Oklahoma City, OK.
May 6-9, 1985. National Executive Committee Meeting, Indianapolis, IN.
May 20-21, 1985. West Point Military Academy, West Point, NY; Presentation of Outstanding Cadet Award on behalf of National Organization
May 27, 1985. Memorial Day speaker, Greenwood, SC.
May 31-June 2, 1985. Visit to Florida, Orlando, FL.
June 22, 1985. Speaker to WWI Barracks State Convention, Atlanta, GA.
June 27-28, 1985, Visit to Arkansas, Little Rock, AR.
June 29-30, 1985. Visit to Tennessee, Nashville, TN.
July 12-14, 1985. Visit to Mississippi, Jackson, MS.
July 17-27, 1985. Boys Nation, Washington, DC.
July 20, 1985. Represented National Organization at National League of Families MIA/POW Meeting, Alexandria, VA.

I shall always be grateful for the wonderful cooperation and kind consideration shown me by the National staff in both Indianapolis and in Washington as well as for the support of my fellow National Vice Commanders.

## REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

HAROLD E. COLLETT, Idaho

I was elected along with four other National Vice Commanders on September 5, 1984 in Salt Lake City, Utah; to serve with National Commandar Clarence Bacon for the 1984-1985 American Legion year.

The thirteen Western States, along with the Department of the Philppines, which were my area of responsibility, had an outstanding year with seven of the Top Ten Departments being Western States. The collective total was in excess of 107% of goal.

I was in close contact with all of the Department Officers both by mail and telephone including most Department Vice Commanders and District Commanders.

One of the highlights of the year was my visit to the Air Force Academy where I represented Commander Bacon at the Awards Ceremony.

I made official visits to 11 of the Departments assigned to me and found good interest and enthusiasm in every case.

The assistance of the National Officers and staff was extremely helpful. A very special thank you to each of them for their valuable assistance.

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve The American Legion as your National Vice Commander.

September 13, 1984. Brainstorming Session for National Vice Commanders, Indianapolis, IN.
October 5-6, 1984. National Commanders Homecoming, Baltimore, MD.
October 7-11, 1984. Fall NEC Meetings, Indianapolis, IN.
November 3-4, 1984. DEC, Helena, MT.
November 17-18, 1984. DEC, Salem, OR.
January 11, 1985. Mid-Winter Conference, Boise, ID.
January 12-13, 1985. Mid-Winter DEC, Lander, WY.

February 2-3, 1985. Mid-Winter DEC, Olympia, WA.
March 3-6, 1985. Washington Conference, Washington, DC.
March 9-10, 1985. DEC, Sacramento, CA.
May 17-19, 1985. Leadership College, Colorado Springs, CO.
May 27-28, 1985. Air Force Academy Awards, Colorado Springs, CO.
June 21, 22, 23, 1985. State Convention Salt Lake City, UT.
June 27-28, 1985. State Convention Tucson, AZ.
June 28-29, 1985. State Convention Plains, NM.
July 12-13, 1985. State Convention Elko, NV.
July 19, 20, 21, 1985. State Convention Lewiston, ID.
August 24-29, 1985. National Convention New Orleans, LA.
September 22, 1984. Sixth District Convention Malad City, ID.
September 29, 1984. Third District Convention Caldwell, ID.
October 20, 1984. Seventh District Convention St. Anthony, ID.
October 27, 1984. Second District Convention Nezperce, ID.
October 28, 1984. First District Convention Bonners Ferry, ID.
November 10, 1984. State Food Convoy Boise, ID.
November 11, 1984. Post Falls Veterans Day speech.
February 6, 1985. Marsing, Idaho Post Stew Feed.
February 13, 1985. Homedale, Idalo Post Bean Feed.
March 15, 1985. Nampa, Idaho Birthday Dinner.
March 23, 1985. Third District Convention Homedale, ID.
March 30, 1985. First District Convention Sandpoint, ID.
March 31, 1985. Second District Convention Whitebird, ID.
April 13, 1985. Sixth District Convention Blackfoot, ID.
April 14, 1985. Seventh District Convention Idaho Falls, ID.
April 15, 1985. National Regional Oratorical Boise, ID.
April 27, 1985. Fourth District Convention Hagerman, ID.
April 28, 1985. Fifth District Convention Paul, ID.
May 4, 1985. Eighth District Convention Challis, ID.
May 11, 1985. Ninth District Convention McCall, ID.
June 8, 1985. Leadership Training Seminar Nampa, ID.
June 9-14, 1985. Gem Boys State Boise, ID.

## REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

RONALD D. BIRK, Kansas

At the final session of the 66th Annual Convention of the American Legion held in Salt Lake City, Utah on September 5, 1984, it was my great honor and privilege to be elected to the high office of National Vice Commander.

The past year has been an exciting year, one I shall always remember and certainly the high point of the 25 years that I have been active in The American Legion.

I was assigned ten Departments: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and Italy. I have completed my official visits to all of my assigned Departments with the exception of Italy. I also made several visits on special occasions when authorized to represent the American Legion. I am sorry to say that membership in my area was not what I had hoped and expected. Being mostly rural, farm states and with the state of the economy in agriculture, it was very difficult.

*September*

I went to Indianapolis to National American Legion Headquarters where the five National Vice Commanders spent two days being briefed by National Commander Bacon and the headquarters staff. This was most educational and a great help to each of us all year.

*October*

I attended the Homecoming in honor of National Commander Clarence Bacon at Baltimore, Maryland. Traveled from there to Indianapolis for the Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee. Also attended several committee and commission meetings. Came back directly to Abilene, Kansas and accompanied National Commander Bacon to the 3rd Annual Eisenhower Pilgramage and participated in the Wreath Laying Ceremony.

*November*

Attended Veterans Day celebration at Birmingham, Alabama as the American Legion representative. Made my official visit to the Department of Illinois at the Egyptian Jamboree held at Marion, Illinois and was guest speaker at the final banquet. Attended and spoke at several American Legion functions in my home state, Kansas.

*December*

Arrived at Des Moines, Iowa on December 2nd for my official visit to that Department. Addressed a department membership rally that day, then for the next five days, traveled the state of Iowa with a different department vice commander each day. Visited six to eight Legion Posts each day, spoke to many local Legionnaires, traveled well over 1,000 miles and conducted many T.V., Radio and Newspaper Press Conferences. Attended several local American Legion Posts.

*January*

Made official visit to Department of Nebraska to their Mid-Year Conference at North Platte, was principal speaker at the banquet.

*February*

Made authorized visit to Hot Springs, South Dakota to attend their Mid-Winter Forum, featured speaker at the dinner. Traveled to Jamestown, North Dakota for official visit to their Mid-Winter Conference, quest speaker at banquet.

*March*

Attended several District Meetings in Kansas. Treveled to Paducah, Kentucky for their Spring Conference, guest speaker at afternoon session. Made authorized visit to Department of Indiana, principal speaker at banquet.

*May*

Attended and spoke at the Kansas Department Convention, also attended by National Commander Bacon. Presented the American Legion Award inscribed Gold Wrist Watch to Mid-Shipman Kevin P. Crawley who was considered to have excelled personally in athletics. Attended the Spring Commission and National Executive Committee Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana.

*June*

Attended several Kansas American Legion post meetings.

*July*

Made official visit to Department of Missouri convention and brought greetings at the opening session. Master of ceremonies at homecoming banquet for newly elected Kansas American Legion Auxiliary President Dorothy Malone.

*August*

Will attend National American Legion Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana as my final official duty.

Throughout this past year, I have attended many functions and participated in many activities in my home Department of Kansas. It has been a pleasure to work with National Commander Clarence Bacon. I have been most impressed with his leadership ability and his readiness to speak out on behalf of the veteran. It was a pleasure to serve such a great organization as The American Legion and it is my hope that I might have made some worthwhile contribution to our cause.

I would like to thank the staffs of the Indianaplois and the Washington, D.C. offices for their help and cooperation, kindness and courtesies during the past year. It has been my privilege to make many more friends in the greatest organization in the world, The American Legion. I am proud to be a Legionnaire and thank you for the opportunity to have served as a National Vice Commander.

## REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

STEWART R. KUNDE, Minnesota

I was assigned the responsibility for the following Departments: Delware, France, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

I made official visits to the Departments of Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. National Commander Bacon also gave me the to opportunity to make a presentation at

the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. I appreciated that and the hospitality of the Department of Maryland very much.

The Direct Membership Solicitation program was a great help in the recruitment of new members. To date some 17,000 veterans joined in the above named Departments. A special recognition to Commander Jim Chapin, Department of Wisconsin, for exceeding last years final total without counting any DMS members and to Commander Brad Jorgens, Department of Minnesota, for attaining their 21st ALL TIME HIGH. Minnesota continues to lead our organization in that achievement.

My congratulations to Commander Harris, Department of Michigan, and to Commander Drake, Department of Ohio, for exceeding last years final total. To Commander Peggy Reining, Department of Delaware, Commander Wharton, Department of West Virginia, and Commander Winkler, Department of France, for their contribution to our team effort to be the number one membership achievement group.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve The American Legion as a National Vice Commander and my sincere appreciation to National Commander Bacon for his outstanding leadership of this great veterans organization. It was a pleasure to be a part of this team.

## REPORT OF NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

STEPHEN J. MIKOSKY, Pennsylvania

At the final session of the 66th Annual Convention of the American Legion held in Salt Lake City, Utah on September 6, 1984, I had the honor and privilege of being elected to the high office of National Vice Commander. Without a doubt this has been one of the most exciting and gratifying years of my entire career in the American Legion.

The area of my responsibilities covers the following Departments: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Canada. In addition to all the official visits, I had the opportunity of visiting other Departments and numerous special events. All the Departments under my jurisdiction had an accumulative 101.06 percent.

*September*

In early September National Commander Clarence Bacon invited all the National Vice Commanders to a meeting in Indianapolis. At this meeting guide lines were established, assignments were made and we were all told that this was the year we would trun around the decreasing membership problem. I was very proud to be a part of the Commanders' team, as I am sure that he inspired all the attendees to go out and sell his program. Attended the Pennsylvania Department Executive Meeting in Carlisle, PA. I was given the opportunity to speak to the Executive Committee and impressed upon them the approach taken by Commander Bacon and how he felt about making this the best year of the American Legion in membership. At the "Early Bird" meeting the next day over 1000 Legionaires and Auxiliary members were present. From the tone of that meeting and the excitement in the audience I knew that Pennsylavania would go over the top in membership again this year.

*October*

Attended the National Commanders Homecoming celebration in Baltimore. Following this gala event we were flown to Indianapolis to attend the N.E.C. Meeting. All the Vice Commanders were guests at the National Commanders' Dinner.

Participated in the Autumn Naturalization Day Program at the Westmoreland County Court House. This event is held twice a year and is co-sponsored by the Westmoreland County Council and the 31st District of the American Legion. On this occasion 85 new citizens were sworn in. Judge Gilfert Mihalich, a former Department Parliamentarian administered the oath of allegiance. I addressed the new citizens and welcomed them into our country. An official visit to the Department of New York Executive Meeting. I was the guest speaker at the Dinner. During my stay I spoke to many "blue caps" and attended a number of their meetings. The hospitality in New York was great!

*November*

Attented American Legion College at Saint Vincent College Campus in Latrobe, PA. It was founded by Department Adjutant Ed Hoak about 25 years ago as a means of educating newly elected officers in the American Legion. About 500 Le-

gionaires and Auxiliary members were present. This Department and its Adjutant are to be congratulated for this program.

*December*

Participated in the Annual Christmas Hospital Visitations with the Pennsylvania Department Commander and the Auxiliary Department President along with other Department Officers and Legionaires.

*January*

Attended and was given an opportunity to speak at the Western Section Judicial Meeting at White Oak Post #701 in McKeesport, PA. About 225 persons were in attendance as well as Pennsylvania Department Commander L.G. Smith and Department Adjutant Edward T. Hoak.

Had the opportunity to meet with Congressman Bob Edgar of Pennsylvania at the Sheraton-Inn in Greensburg, PA. We talked about veterans affairs. The Congressman is a strong supporter of the affairs of all the veterans.

I was the main speaker for the Department of New York Executive Meeting and Dinner in Albany NY. The dinner was attended by 550 people. I also visited the various meetings that were in progress.

*February*

Official visit to the Department of Vermont. I was the principle speaker for the Department Commander and Department President Dinner.

Attended the Mid-Winter Executive Meeting in Department of New Hampshire . . . delivered an address to their delegates.

Met with Pennsylvania Department Commander L.G. Smith and Department Adjutant Edward T. Hoak along with the Westmoreland County Commissioners concerning a rehabilitation program for the Viet Nam Veterans.

*March*

Attended the Sprint Conference in Washington, DC. Met with National Commander Bacon and other National Vice Commanders.

The Department of Pennsylvania hosted a dinner at the Touchdown Club in Washington to 20 Congressmen; 200 Legionnaires from Pennsylvania were in attendance.

I had the pleasure of hosting congressional delegates from 9 other states at the Rayburn Building.

Entertained National Commander Bacon on his visit to Western Pennsylvania.

Over 300 Legionnaires from the Western part of Pennsylvania attended the Dinner held in his honor at Post #253 in Houston, PA.

*April*

Attended the Department of Pennsylvania Executive Meeting. Gave a report of my activities. Congratulated the Department Commander and all Department Officers for the excellent job that they were doing on membership as well as all Legion mandated programs. . . . A Dinner was held for Department Commander Smith with over 650 persons present.

Official visit to the Department of Rhode Island. I was the principle speaker at the Dinner held in honor of the Department Commander.

*May*

Participated in the Memorial Day Services at Arlington Cemetary. I was a member of the group when President Reagan laid the wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I had the opportunity to meet and talk to the President and his wife Nancy. Later that morning I had the pleasure of representing the National Commander in the placement of the wreath at the Tomb. It was a day I will never forget and I want to thank National Commander Bacon for affording me this high and distinctive honor.

I was present at the initial meeting to start a new American Legion post at Fort Allen, Hempfield Township, PA. Department Commander Smith, Department Adjutant Hoak along with District and County Officials were present. There were a sufficient number of interested persons to sign for a temporary charter. This new Post will be certified at the next Department Executive Meeting.

I made the presentation of the American Legion School Award at the Sacred Heart School in Jeannette, PA, speaking to over 300 parents that were present at the ceremony about the American Legion and its involvement in the youth of our country.

*June*

The Department of Pennsylvania dedicated a 20 foot statue in honor of the Viet Nam veterans. General Westmoreland was the main speaker for this event. I was present as well as members of U.S. Congress and Legislators from Pennsylvania. This statue is one of four . . . each representing WW I, WW II, Korean wars.

Made an official visit to the Department of New Jersey. I was the main speaker at the dinner honoring the Department Commander John Hein. I congratulated the Department on behalf of National Commander Bacon on the fine job they were doing in membership and other Legion programs. I delivered the keynote address before the Delegates of the Department of Maine Convention. I was happy to see Department Adjutant Dan Lambert back in action after his illness. Commander Charles Michaud and all his staff are to be congratulated for a job well done. Guest and main speaker, Massachusetts Department Convention.

*July*

Attended the Department of Pennsylvania Convention in Philadelphia. Addressed the delegates and congratulated them on their performance in exceeding their membership by 11,000. James Dean of Mississippi, a candidate for National Commander, was a visitor and spoke to the Delegation.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the staff at National Headquarters both Indianapolis and Washington, D.C. Their kindness and courtesy in my behalf was always exemplary. I most certainly enjoyed working with them. Help was only a short phone call away . . . the response was instanteous. I have had the privilege of meeting many good people and they will always be remembered. It was indeed an honor to have served as a National Vice Commander. Being associated with National Commander Clarence Bacon will be one of my lifetime memories . . . in my estimation he is one of a kind . . . a very compassionate and caring person, whose thoughts were always for the veteran and his family . . . God speed and good luck to you and your family always Commander Bacon.

## REPORT OF NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

Rev. CHARLES G. RICE, JR., New York

I give special thanks to Almighty God for having been born in a Country that lives in freedom every day, rather than just dreaming of the possibility. To have been chosen as the spiritual leader of more than three million Legionnaires and their families has been the high point of my ministry.

I owe many thanks to National Commander Clarence Bacon for his gracious treatment of his Chaplain. To all of the staff at National Headquarters and the Washington office, who made my task such a pleasant one, thank you. To the Department of New York for their constant encouragement and help, thank you. I cannot single any of you out by name or this report would become book-size.

To the Greene County Legislature, for their accolades and certificate, thank you. To the White House for the gracious invitation "to attend and participate" in the Inauguration thank you. To the House of Representatives and their invitation to offer Innovation on March 4, 1985, thank you. To the United States Senate and their invitation to offer Invocation on March 5, 1985, thank you. To the New York State Assembly and their invitation to offer Invocation on Memorial Day, May 30, 1985, thank you.

To the participating Department Chaplains in our Conference in November 1985 a special salute from me—for you made the Conference a spiritual working conference beyond my expectations.

It was superb year—American Legion. Thank you for making me such an integral part of it.

*Major personal matters attended to—1985*

September 5, 1984.—Appointed National Chaplain.
October 5, 1984.—Attended homecoming of Commander Bacon, Baltimore, MD.
October 8, 1984.—NEC Meetings, Indianapolis, IN.
November 10, 1984.—Invocation and Benediction for WWI Veterans, Hudson, NY.
November 11, 1984.—Three Church Services in honor of Veterans Day.
November 12 to 14, 1984.—Conducted Department Chaplains Conference, Indianapolis, IN.
December 7, 1984.—Outdoor Pearl Harbor Observance, Greenville, NY, Veterans park.

January 20, 1985.—Attended President's Prayer Service at National Cathedral, Washington, DC.
January 21, 1985.—Offered Benediction at Inaugural Military Banquet and Ball, Washington, DC.
January 25 to 26, 1985.—Midwinter Conference, Dept. of NY.
February 3, 1985.—Church Services (3) Commemorating Four Chaplains Sunday.
March 4 to 6, 1985.—Legislative Conference, Washington, DC.
March 4, 1985.—Invocation—House of Representatives.
March 5, 1985.—Invocation—U.S. Senate.
March 6, 1985.—Invocation and Benediction Awards Banquet Luncheon, Washington, DC.
March 21, 1985.—American Legion Baseball Dinner for Greene County, NY.
April 18, 1985.—National Commander Bacon's Visitation Banquet, Albany, NY.
April 19, 1985.—National Commander Bacon's Visitation Banquet, New York, NY.
April 24, 1985.—Legislative Breakfast Meeting—N.Y. State Capitol, Albany, NY.
May 6 to 9, 1985.—Spring NEC Meetings. V-E Day Observance, Indianapolis, IN.
May 27, 1985.—Memorial Day Parade—Prayers and participation, Greenville, NY.
May 30, 1985.—Invocation for N.Y. State Assembly—State Capitol, Albany, NY.
June 23, 1985.—Benediction at the opening ceremonies—Boys State—Siena College.
July 17 to 20, 1985.—Department of New York Convention, Rochester, NY.
August 23 to 28, 1985.—National Convention American Legion, New Orleans, LA.

## REPORT OF NATIONAL HISTORIAN

ROY R. MAHONEY, Florida

During this short time frame, I have attempted to reach certain goals that were necessary to update and standardize on-going practices relating to the office of National Historian. The following are areas considered necessary to support such activities.

*Management By Objectives (MBO)*

*Goal 1:* To establish National outlines for a one-year Post narrative History and Scrapbook. The bulletin "Histories are Important" is the end result. It is a consolidation of revised, researched and incorporated ideas of existing material.

*Goal 2:* To have incorporated in The American Legion Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies the one-year Post narrative History and Scrapbook outlines. This has been accomplished with the March 1985 revision of the Officer's Guide that is now available.

This will be a big help to the Department Historians. Over 16,000 American Legion Post Historians will have this material readily available when they are installed.

*Goal 3:* To establish a National one-year Department narrative History and Scrapbook outline to be used as a guide for annual National contests. The rsult is the bulletin "You are The Department Historian."

*Goal 4:* To revise and update existing "Helpful Hints for District Historians" and "Helpful Hints for County Historians.' This was accomplished under the bulletin title of "Helpful Hints for a District (and County) Historian."

*Goal 5:* To include the material "Helpful Hints for District (and County) Historians", for information, in the next revision of the Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies. Coordination is being made through the Internal Affairs Division.

*Goal 6:* To update mail-out material regarding the beginning of The American Legion. The revised bulletin, "History of The American Legion" is now available.

*Goal 7:* To utilize the word processor at National Headquarters to record all pertinent material regarding the office of National Historian.

The time has come for the office of National Historian to update and revise the methods of recording and storing needed material utilized by this office on an ongoing basis. This will save many man-hours of retyping material annually.

*Goal 8:* To revise the administrative forms that will be used in conjunction with the annual National Contests in Histories and Scrapbooks for the Department and Post levels.

*Goal 9:* To establish a standard plaque with appropriate text for the first, second and third place award winners of the four annual National contests. The plaque will include the name of the Historian, name of Post or Department, type of contest and date of contest.

*Goal 10:* To revise the Certificate of Honorable Mention to include the name of the Historian, in addition to the name of the Post or Department.

*Goal 11:* To upate Resolution 26 regarding the National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion (NADHAL) annual meetings. Primarily, changing a "Spring meeting" to read a "Fall meeting."

This is an annual mail-out to all departments encouraging them to assist their Department Historians in some financial way to attend these meetings. Many Departments balked at the Spring meeting attendance. Why send a Department Historian to Indianapolis in May when he or she may possibly be going out of office shortly.

*Goal 12:* To establish guidelines for timely mail-outs of pertinent material to the new of continuing Department Historian on an annual basis.

*Goal 13:* To recognize all Past National Historians on a Past National Historians plaque to be located in the Library at National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana. This is being accomplished with the assistance of Emblem Sales.

*Goal 14:* To establish a "National Historian Guide" that can be amended annually and used as reference material for the new National Historian.

*Annual National History Contests*

Starting this year, there will be annual National one-year contests for Department and Post narrative histories. For the present time, Scrapbooks will be included. The Scrapbook is relatively new to National Contests. It was introduced in 1976, as a one-time only contest, to record the Bi-centennial activities of the Posts. It was picked up the following year and alternated several years with the Narrative History Contests, and the every five year Department Contests.

The Scrapbook, by far, is the easiest to compile. It is a book of memorabilia of selected events, and is not a complete history of that Department or Post. There are more Scrapbook entries than there are Histories. In 1983, the Scrapbook exceeded the number of Narrative Histories by 30%. By survey, the trend will increase with each contest year. If the entrants submitted both types of books for their Department Contests and Department Historians doing the same at the National level, there would be no cause to remove the Department Scrapbook from National Contests nor to limit the Post Scrapbook to the Department Contest level only.

**Memorial Roll Call**

G. N. Anderson, Mexico
Howard D. Beeker, Florida
Luther Avon Blue, Jr., Missouri [1]
Homer K. Bowen, Virginia
N. E. "Red" Brown, South Carolina
S. Perry Brown, Texas [2]
Salvadore "Sal" V. Butitta, Louisiana
Thomas Woodley Carr, Mississippi
Clinton C. Chappell, Arizona
John R. Cherne, Montana
Paul A. Chinn, Kentucky
A. R. Christovich, Louisiana
Marvin R. Clark, North Carolina
Alton W. Cochran, Indiana
Robert E. Cockrill, Sr., Arizona
Harold T. Colbjornsen, Minnesota
William J. Coughlin, Jr., Massachusetts
Arthur R. Cross, Jr., Arkansas
Robert P. Cudd, Minnesota
Daniel A. Drew, Pennsylvania
Harold A. Eaton, Sr., New Jersey
Joseph Ecker, Canada
Richard D. Ezell, Missouri
John S. Foster, Alabama
A. P. Geisendorff, Mexico
Father Bernard W. Gerdon, Indiana
Robert H. Grainger, Arizona
Roy Hall, Tennessee
John Hays, Wisconsin
John C. Hayne, Sr., Arizona
Otto A. "Pete" Helm, North Dakota
C. Alvin Hoffman, Mexico
Francis Lee Hopper, Mexico
O. R. (Bill) Huber, Tennessee
Donald C. Huntley, Michigan
Rev. Omer Idso, Montana
William E. Jenner, Indiana
Thomas L. "Doc" Jennings, Georgia
T.R. Johnson, South Dakota [1]
James F. Kelly, Sr., Pennsylvania
John H. Keriakedes, Nebraska
M. Kenneth Kiefler, Georgia
Leonard J. Koessel, Iowa
Ernest G. Koi, Michigan
Dewayne A. Krogh, South Dakota
D. P. Lilly, Oklahoma
Frank Linares, Puerto Rico
Frank Llewllyn, Pennsylvania
Gen. Sumter L. Lowry, Jr., Florida [1]
Ralph J. Lubensky, Florida
Dominador P. Magbilen, Philippines
Aris N. Mantzoros, Illnois
Arthur M. McDowell, Indiana
J. Earl Merifield, California

Richard H. Meihling, California [1]
Thomas E. Moran, Georgia
James J. Murphy, D.C.
Oscar Nietfeldt, Illinois
Wilbert L. Ney, Panama
Orin "Red" Nowlin, Indiana
Armando E. Padilla, Puerto Rico
Claudius G. Pendill, Wisconsin
Dewey M. Pendleton, Wyoming
W. Townsend Raplee, Virginia
George P. Reinberg, Mexico
George A. Rice, South Dakota
George W. Rolloson, Louisiana
Henry W. Ryan, New Jersey
Hugo P. Saggau, Iowa
Hugh A. Smith, Jr., Kansas
Dr. J. Dayton Smith, Nevada
Sam D. Stooksberry, Tennessee
Howard M. Swinney, Kentucky
Ernest J. Tannler, Washington
Vernie G. Tosh, Tennessee
Henry Watson, South Carolina
Raymond Weeks, Alabama
James A. Weir, Connecticut
Robert J. White, Massachusetts
Col. Roy Whitlock, Georgia
John J. Wicker, Jr., Virginia

[1] Founder.
[2] Past National Commander.

# REPORT OF NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

P.B. ONDERDONK, JR., Maryland

## Contracts

Contracts and/or amendments to contracts prepared by the National Judge Advocate and contracts entered into by the American Legion which were reviewed and approved by the National Judge Advocate

(1) Contract by and between The American Legion and The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Ohio, an Ohio corporation, covering the convocation of the 1986 National Convention of The American Legion in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio.

(2) Lease Agreement by and between the American Legion and the State of Indiana, acting by and through the Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Administration on behalf of the Indiana War Memorials Commission, covering the leasing of Building "C", of the Indiana War Memorial structure, (700 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, Indiana), for a period of four (4) years commencing November 10, 1985, with the privilege of renewal for a like period under the same terms and conditions.

(3) Leasing Agreement by and between The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, an Indiana corporation, having an office at 1608 K Street, North West, Washington, D.C. in the building owned by The American Legion. This lease is for the period of June 1, 1985 to May 31, 1986, with an automatic renewal for similar successive terms unless either party shall have given to the other at least 90-days advance written notice of an intent not to renew this lease.

(4) Lease Agreement by and between The American Legion and the National League of Families, covering space occupied by the League in The American Legion Headquarters building located at 1608 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. This lease is for the period June 1, 1985 to May 31, 1986.

(5) Agreement by the between The American Legion and Local 99-99A, International Union of Operating Engineers affiliated with the Greater Washington Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO and the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO, for the purpose of mutual understanding, and in order that a harmonious relationship may exist between The American Legion and employees in the Washington office.

(6) Travel Agreement by and between The American Legion and Delta Air Lines, Inc., wherein Delta Air Lines, Inc. agrees to file a special directional passenger fare tariff to New Orleans, Louisiana, from all points on Delta's domestic system allowing a thirty percent (30%) savings on Delta full round trip day coach fares for members of the The American Legion and their families traveling on Delta round trip to the National Convention of The American Legion.

(7) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Clayton International, Inc., a New York corporation, wherein Clayton International agrees to sell and deliver to The American Legion Magazine during the term July 1, 1985 and ending December 31, 1986, the quantities of paper of the grade, basis weight, at the prices, terms and conditions stated in the Agreement.

(8) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Vetcom, Inc., a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the Laws of the State of Virginia, covering the solicitation and the procurement of advertising for The American Legion Magazine.

(9) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Robert Redden Associates, Inc., a New Jersey corporation, wherein Robert Redden Associates, Inc., agrees to act as a Publisher's Representative.

(10) Contract by and between The American Legion and Leo A. Daly Company covering the renovation of the seventh floor of The American Legion Headquarters building located at 1608 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

(11) Contract by and between The American Legion and Columbia Construction Company, Inc., covering the renovation of the seventh floor of The American Legion Headquarters building located at 1508 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

(12) Fee Agreement by and between The American Legion and the Indiana National Bank for the year 1985. This Agreement covers the charges extended by The Indiana National Bank as Trustees of The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof.

(13) A Letter of Agreement by and between The American Legion and Starch INRA Hooper, Inc., authorizing a reader profile study for The American Legion Magazine by Starch INRA Hooper. This study was to serve as a test to determine whether or not The American Legion should consider measurement in the Simmons-Market Study, and, at the same time, give The American Legion information that will aid in sales promotional efforts.

(14) Contracts by and between The American Legion and International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) covering a variety of machines.

(15) Agreement by and between The American Legion and American Broadcasting Companies, Inc., concerning use of a public service announcement.

(16) Renewal of Agreement by and between The American Legion and Endata, Inc., covering services for Direct Mail operations.

(17) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Duns Marketing Service to develop marketing information for use by The American Legion.

(18) Marketing Research Agreement by and between The American Legion and Freidman-Swift Associates, covering six (6) Marketing Research Studies.

(19) Renewal of a Contract by and between The American Legion and Meyer Communications Corporation for the taping of National Conventions.

(20) Agreement by and between The American Legion and the Pacers Basketball Corporation covering advertisement to be placed in the Indiana Pacers Program for the season dates 1984-1985 for all home games.

(21) Letter of Agreement by and between The American Legion and Cassell Productions, Inc., in which Cassell Productions, Inc., will provide all materials and equipment necessry to produce two separate and distinct thirty-second television commercials for The American Legion in Indianapolis, Indiana.

(22) Telemarketing Agreement by and between The American Legion and Campaign Communications Institute of America, Inc., for a telephone marketing test and plan.

(23) Agreement by and between The American Legion and the National Car Rental System, Inc., making available to members of The American Legion a discount on the rental of automobiles from their company.

(24) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Ramada Inns, Inc., making available to members of The American Legion a discount in the rates for their "R&R Weekend" programs. This Agreement is in effect until December 31, 1985.

(25) Agreement by and between The American Legion and LaQuinta Motor Inns, Inc., making available to members of The American Legion a discount in the room rates of their motor inns. This Agreement is in effect until August 31, 1986.

(26) Letter of Agreement by and between The American Legion and Thrifty Rent-A-Car, making available to members of The American Legion a reduced rate in the rental of their motor vehicles.

(27) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Sears' Allstate Motor Club, giving the Legionnaires a discount of 10% on Allstate Motor Club's membership.

(28) Association Agreement by and between The American Legion and Avis Rent A Car System, Inc., making available to members of The American Legion a discount rate for rental of their automobiles.

(29) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Best Western International, Inc., Wherein Best Western agrees to allow to Legion members a ten percent (10%) discount on all rooms rented at the directory rate at all participating Best Western motels and motor hotels.

(30) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Greyhound Lines, Inc., wherein Greyhound agrees to provide members of The American Legion and their dependents a fifteen percent (15%) discount off standard fares for interstate and intrastate regular route motorcoach service between points in the continental United States.

(31) Transportation Agreement by and between The American Legion and United Intermode, Inc., (United Van Lines, Inc.), wherin United offers to Legionnaries a special discount.

(32) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Better Times Magazine to participate in a discount program for American Legion members. A discount of two subscriptions for the price of one rate of $15.00 to the members of The American Legion.

(33) Agreement by and between The American Legion and American Red Ball Transit Co., Inc., wherein American Red Ball Transit Co., Inc., agrees to extend up to a 28% discount in line-hall transportation to all members of The American Legion. This discount applies to interstate shipments moving between points and places within the United States (except Alaska and Hawaii).

(34) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Allstate Motor Club, Inc., for a test and pilot donation program based on Motor Club memberships purchased by Legionnaires.

(35) A Master Service Agreement and an Agreement to Purchase Services by and between The American Legion and Claritas Partners, L.P., for test mailings.

(36) Standard List Protection Agreements by and between The American Legion and the following companies have been executed to cover the protection of magnetic tapes used for mass-mailings to the general membership of The American Legion:

Doehla Greetings; Felco Federal Letter Co.: International Administrators, Inc.; Better Times Magazine; Instant Web, Inc.; Voiture Nationale La Societe Des 40 ET 8 Chevaux; Metro Printing and Mailing Service, Inc.; Endata, Inc.; Response Systems, Inc.; P.S.A., Inc.; Daniels Head & Associates; Calmark Mailing Service, Inc.; Foote & Davies; Sales and Research Corp.; Life Insurance Company of North America

(37) List Protection Agreements by and between The American Legion and the following companies have been executed to cover the protection of magnetic tapes used for mass-mailings to the general membership of The American Legion:

Brick Mill Studios, Inc.; Famous Artists' Studios, Inc.; Rollins Burdick Hunter Co.; Association Group Insurance Administrators (AGIA).

(38) Contract by and between the American Legion Auxiliary and Maury Boyd and Associates, Inc., a corporation organized under the Laws of the State of Indiana. This contract covers all aspects of camera work, printing, furnishing of paper, binding, labeling, shipping and mailing for all copies of all issues of the National News.

(39) Contract by and between the American Legion Auxiliary and Maury Boyd and Associates, Inc., covering their services as Advertising Agent for the American Legion Auxiliary's magazine, the National News.

(40) Agreement by and between the American Legion Auxiliary and Haynes and Pittenger Direct, Inc., in which Haynes and Pittenger will provide service to the American Legion Auxiliary in carrying out its direct membership solicitation and fund raising programs.

(41) Agreement by and between the American Legion Auxiliary and Lincoln House, Inc., in which Units of the Auxiliary will receive income based upon the volume of orders placed with Lincoln House.

(42) Contract by and between The American Legion and the Indianapolis Indians, for the purchase of advertising space in the 1985 Souvenir Program of the Indianapolis Indians.

(43) Advertising Contract by and between The American Legion and Our Town Indianapolis Magazine, covering the insertion of an advertisement in said Magazine for the May, 1985 Edition.

(44) Agreement by and between The American Legion and Intrak, Inc., concerning the licensing of computer software.

(45) The Office of the National Judge Advocate reviewed prior to execution, all insurance policies and riders to existing policies in which The American Legion is the named insured.

(46) The National Judge Advocate also reviewed all National Emblem Sales Division contracts for the 1985 and the bonds furnished in connection therewith, prior to approval and execution, covering the purchase of specific items for sale, including but not limited to emblems and other paraphernalia.

(47) Purchase Order Agreement by and between the American Legion Auxiliary and Rogers Typesetting.

(48) Letter of Agreement by and between The American Legion and Rodeway Inns International extending to members of The American Legion a minimum of ten percent (10%) discount off published rack rates.

(49) Letter of Agreement by and between The American Legion and K & K Displays, Inc., an Indiana corporation, covering the building of an American Legion Parade Float for the 1985 Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade.

(50) Systems Service Agreement by and between The American Legion and Automated Systems Development of Indiana (A.S.D.I.) wherein A.S.D.I. agrees to provide Software Tools and Operating System for the NCR PC4 and installation of same.
(51) License Agreement by and between The American Legion and AM Varityper Corporation wherein Varityper will furnish a Varityper with certain peripheral attachments and maintenance thereto.

**Litigation**

File No. 81-62-NO

Litigation styled:

MARION THOMAS and GLENN THOMAS PLAINTIFFS

*vs.*

NONESUCH POST NO. 462, AMERICAN LEGION, a Michigan corporation; AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN, a Michigan corporation, THE AMERICAN LEGION, a National Organization; DUANE ROEHM; and RICHARD GRAY d/b/a DICK'S DUGOUT, DEFENDANTS

On June 24, 1981, a Summons and Complaint was served upon the National Judge Advocate by mail in connection with the above cited litigation.

Plaintiffs' attorneys brought their suit in the Circuit Court, State of Michigan, for the County of Ontonagon, alleging that Defendants were responsible for Plaintiff's injuries which were sustained while she was an alleged business invitee at a softball game. It is alleged that because Defendants were careless, reckless and negligent, Plaintiff suffered severe injury to her left eye, causing loss of sight therein and permanent disfigurement after having been struck by a softball during the course of a softball game.

On June 29, 1981, this matter was turned over to our insurance carrier.

On March 14, 1982, we were served with written interrogatories. On March 30, 1982, we provided Answers to the Interrogatories. In preparation for the filing of a Motion for Summary Judgment an affidavit was prepared and signed by the National Adjutant on June 2, 1982, in support of the Motion. Motion for summary Judgment was argued in October, 1983, however we were not notified of the Judge's dismissal until June 25, 1985. You may now consider this litigation closed.

82-208025 NS

Litigation styled:

JOAN KUCZMARSKI, as Mother and Next Friend of JOHN K. KUCZMARSKI, a Minor, and JOSEPH J. KUCZMARSKI, PLAINTIFFS

*vs.*

AMERICAN LEGION HAROLD J. CHATELL POST 426, a Michigan corporation, and AMERICAN LEGION, a foreign corporation, Jointly and Severally, DEFENDANTS

*and*

No. 84-425865 NO

Hon. James A. Hathaway

JOAN KUCZMARSKI, Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of JOSEPH T. KUCZMARSKI; JOHN K. KUCZMARSKI, JOSEPH J. KUCZMARSKI, TIMOTHY KUCZMARSKI; and KAREN KUCZMARSKI, PLAINTIFFS

*vs.*

AMERICAN LEGION, a federally chartered corporation; AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN, a domestic corporation; and AMERICAN LEGION HAROLD J. CHATELL POST 426, a domestic corporation, Jointly and Severally, DEFENDANTS

On May 3, 1982, we were served with a Summons and Complaint in the above litigation which was brought in the Circuit Court for the County of Wayne, in the State of Michigan. The second suit was served December 4, 1984.

It is alleged in the Complaint that on October 5, 1978, that Defendants in violation of Michigan law served to Plaintiff, while at the club bar of American Legion Harold J. Chatell Post No. 426, intoxicating beverages after it was apparent that at the time of said service he was visibly intoxicated. It is further alleged that as a result of Plaintiff's intoxicated condition, he was severely and permanently injured.

A judgment is sought in an amount which is fair and just and consistent with the laws of evidence, as the jury shall determine.

This matter was turned over to our insurance carrier on May 3, 1982. On February 14, 1983, the deposition of the National Adjutant was taken. Discovery continues. Cases and materials on a Motion for Summary Judgment for The American Legion have been supplied. The Motion was filed and cleared. A Motion to Dismiss was filed which was partially granted. The Motion to Dismiss and the Motion for Summary Judgment in the first case have been renewed. W will keep you informed as this litigation progresses.

*In the Circuit Court for Baltimore County at Law*

Litigation styled:

LEROY G. CARROLL, 31 Kenmar Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21055, PLAINTIFF

*vs.*

AMERICAN LEGION POST 183 a/k/a PARKVILLE AMERICAN LEGION a/k/a PUTTY HILL AMERICAN LEGION, 2301 Putty Hill Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21234

Serve on: Richard Prevail, Commander, 2301 Putty Hill Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21234

*and*

RICHARD PREVAIL, COMMANDER, American Legion Post 183 a/k/a Putty Hill American Legion, 2301 Putty Hill Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21234

*and*

THE AMERICAN LEGION, War Memorial Building, Baltimore, Maryland

Serve on: Daniel M. Burkhardt, Resident Agent, War Memorial Building, Baltimore, Maryland

*and*

THE AMERICAN LEGION, National Headquarters, 700 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206 (sic) DEFENDANTS

PERSON or PERSONS whose names will be furnished to the Court at a later date whose identity is known only to the DEFENDANTS

On March 21, 1983, this office was served with a Summons and Complaint and written Interrogatories in the above styled litigation which was filed in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County in Towson, Maryland.

Plaintiff alleges that on March 26, 1982, while on the premises of American Legion Post 183, as an invitee participating in the Post's "Bonanza Night," he asserted to a "blackjack" dealer of the Post that he miscounted cards. The dealer allegedly thereafter signaled two individuals to remove Plaintiff from the Post premises. In the course of doing so Plaintiff alleges he was viciously attacked, which resulted in numerous bodily injuries and permanent disfigurement of his face. Plaintiff seeks $100,000 in compensatory damages and $100,000 in punitive damages.

This case was turned over to our insurance carrier on March 23, 1983.

On February 10, 1984, we forwarded an Affidavit executed by Robert W. Spanogle, National Adjutant, in support of a Motion for Summary Judgment in subject case. Our Motion was granted. You may now consider this case closed.

Case No. 276803-4

Complaint for Assault and Battery

Litigation styled:

GREGORY ALAN DEWITT PLAINTIFF

*vs.*

LARRY MARKLEY, MICHAEL MARKLEY, PENNY KLIMEK (MARKLEY), ROBERT RIOFRIO and DOES I through X, inclusive, DEFENDANTS

On June 26, 1984, The American Legion was purportedly served with a summons and Compaint by attorneys for Plaintiff, who brought suit in the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno. The Defendants are Larry Markley, Michael Markley, Penny Klimek (Markley ?) Robert Riofrio and Does I through X. The American Legion, National Chapter (sic) identified as III.

Plaintiff alleges that at all times relative to the suit, each Defendant was an agent, servant, representative and employer of the remaining Defendants.

On June 11, 1981, Plaintiff alleges Defendant Larry Markley committed assault and battery on the Plaintiff by striking him with a beer bottle. This is alleged to have occurred at 6th and West Cedar Street, Coalinga, California. Plaintiff alleges that Michael Markley and Penny Klimek (Markley ?) committed assault and battery against the Plaintiff by striking him in the face and holding the Plaintiff so that Larry Markley could strike him with a beer bottle.

Plaintiff alleges that Robert Riofrio individually and doing business as Cold River Band had rented The American Legion Hall at 6th and Cedar Street. The Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Riofrio advertised the dance to the general public and invited persons to pay admission to attend said dance on June 10, 1981. Defendant Robert Riofrio is alleged to have negligently failed to provide security, despite altercations at prior events, and that this negligence led to (in some unexplained fashion) the alleged attack on Defendant by Plaintiffs. Plaintiff claims expenses for Doctors, Hospitals and other related expenses of $13,865.10, and claims he will incur further expenses. Plaintiff claims for general, special and punitive damges (amounts unspecified), costs and such other relief the Court deems proper.

The case has been turned over to our insurance carrier for defense along with an offer for cases and authorities to support a Motion to Dismiss or for Summary Judgment so as to serve The American Legion from the case. We will keep you informed as this litigation progresses.

Case No. C-3-83-1248

Litigation styled:

WILLIAM KONRAD ELRICH, PLAINTIFF

*v.*

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION REGIONAL OFFICE, ET AL, DEFENDANTS

On July 26, 1984, Plaintiff served a list of Defendants, copies of various letters and documents and a definition of the term "Res ipsa loquitur" by mail. Among the list of Defendants was The American Legion and Philip B. Onderdonk, the National Judge Advocate. Plaintiff sued in Federal Court in Dayton, Ohio, pro se. A motion to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction, improper service and failure to state a claim was filed.

While Plaintiff's claim was hazy and indefinite it appeared that he did not receive an affirmative response to his request for representation in Court. The American Legion may not provide representation unless authorized by the National Executive Committee. In addition, the National Judge Advocate, who is not licensed in Ohio, may not personally represent a Plaintiff in that state.

Among the other Defendants were a number of law firms, Veterans Administration officials, banks, insurance companies as well as local officials. It seems a bank foreclosed on the Plaintiff's two houses while the Plaintiff was in a hospital. It is our understanding that no guardian was appointed. The American Legion did convince the V.A. to waive any deficiency from the foreclosures. This case has been dismissed.

Complaint SV 840485

Litigation styled:

THE FACTORY STORE, INC., PLAINTIFF

*against*

THE AMERICAN LEGION & ROBERT REDDEN ASSOCIATES, INC., DEFENDANTS

On August 13, 1984, service was made on the secretary to the National Judge Advocate in this case which was filed in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Plaintiff claimed that The American Legion conspired with unnamed entities to put it out of business and engaged in a concerted boycott of its advertising in The American Legion Magazine.

Plaintiff has advertised in The American Legion Magazine in the past. The Magazine experienced difficulty in collecting the fee for the advertising and a large number of customer complaints which were not handled by the advertiser. Accordingly, when the advertiser sought to place an advertisement in the winter of 1983–84, The American Legion Magazine set guidelines for acceptance. The Magazine required payment in advance, testing of the products by an approved testing organziation with the results sent directly to The American Legion, and the posting of a $10,000 standby letter of credit so that The American Legion could satisfy customer complaints should the advertiser continue to fail to do so. The advertiser rejected this offer. It is interesting to note that the advertiser had drafted the complaint in subject case one month prior to this breakdown of negotiations. It took the Plaintiff approximately seven months to serve the Complaint. The Plaintiff has claimed $20,000,000 in damages.

A motion to dismiss for lack for jurisdiction, improper service and failure to state a claim was filed. In addition to counsel provided by our insurance company we retained our own attorney as part of the defense team to insure proper defense. The case was dismissed.

Civil No S84-0500

Litigation styled:

STEPHEN S. MAROZSAN

*vs.*

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ET AL

On August 20, 1984, The American Legion received service by certified mail from the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana. A motion to dismiss for improper service, lack of jurisdiction and failure to state a proper claim was filed.

Plaintiff claimed that The American Legion gave false testimony to Congress on the subject of judicial review of veterans' claims before the Veterans Administration and that a case in California dealing with the $10.00 limitation of attorney's fees in cases before the Veterans Administration supports his claim. Plaintiff appeared pro se and appeared to be somewhat confused. The case has been dismissed in response to the motion filed by The American Legion.

Civil Action File

File No. D-12776

Litigation styled:

AMERICAN LEGION POST 201, ALPHARETTA, GEORGIA, INC., PLANTIFF,

*v.*

THE AMERICAN LEGION, ET AL., DEFENDANTS.

Subject complaint was not served. At about 4:00 p.m. on August 20, 1984, The American Legion was notified that an injuction had been issued, or that a temporary restraining order had been issued. Such notice is sufficient to require a Defendant to make its defense. The case arose out of the 1984 Department of Georgia's baseball tournament. The team that won had been disqualified for using an ineligi-

ble player. This team had requested a ruling on the eligibility of a particular player in June and had been informed that he was indeed eligible. After the team won, a protest from the second place team resulted in an investigation. The results of this investigation showed the player clearly ineligible. The team which was disqualified failed to appeal the National Appeals Board, preferring to use the Courts.

Part of the temporary restraining order purported to control actions by The American Legion during the Regional Tournament and, possibly, The American Legion Baseball World Series. This left the national organization no choice but to emphatically resist the Court order in order to avoid an impossible situation under the rules or being in contempt of court. Two hearings with the Judge were unsuccessful in obtaining a modification of the temporary restraining order.

Accordingly, on August 22, 1984, an appeal was filed with the Georgia Supreme Court alleging a lack of jurisdiction because of organizational remedies had not been exhausted, which appeal was promptly granted.

For all practical intents and purposes this ended the case. Thereafter there was no service of complaint and the case has been dropped by Plaintiff Post.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, NOVEMBER TERM, 1984 No. 1347
JURY TRIAL DEMANDED CIVIL ACTION

Litigation styled:

SONDRA MONROE

*v.*

COLONEL CHARLES YOUNG AMERICAN LEGION POST #16 AND #682, a.k.a. UNITED AMERICAN WAR VETERANS COL. C. YOUNG POST #16 AND UNITED AMERICAN WAR VETERANS COL. C. YOUNG POST #682; COMMANDER WESLEY JONES, a.k.a. WESLEY JONES, COMMANDER H. KEITH LEE, a.k.a. H. KEITH LEE; SENIOR VICE COMMANDER and JR. VICE COMMANDER JOSEPH H. DIXON, a.k.a. JOSEPH H. DIXON; SENIOR VICE COMMANDER NICK WATSON, a.k.a. NICK WATSON; ADJUTANT REBECCA GILBERT; JR. VICE COMMANDER ULYSSES PETERS, a.k.a. ULYSSES PETERS; FINANCIAL OFFICER LAWRENCE HARRIS, a.k.a. LAWRENCE HARRIS; FINANCIAL OFFICER DAVID L. BYRD, a.k.a. DAVID L. BYRD; STEWARD HANSEL FULLER a.k.a. HANSEL FULLER; STEWARD FRED D. CLARK, a.k.a. FRED D. CLARK; ALDIE V. CANNON, individually and as TRUSTEE OF COL. CHAS. YOUNG, AMERICAN LEGION POSTS #682; CHARLES SMITH, individually and as TRUSTEE OF COL. CHAS. YOUNG, AMERICAN LEGION POSTS #16 and #682; AMERICAN LEGION PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER, and AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CHARTER.

This case was initially served on The American Legion November 16, 1984. Plaintiff claims she was in American Legion Post No. 16, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at 3:20 a.m. on November 14, 1982. She claimed she was shot by a patron, guest or customer and The American Legion National Organization owns and operates said Post. The case has been referred to our insurance company and is proceeding. A motion to correct the name and defects in service has been filed and partially granted. Discovery is continuing and a Motion for Summary Judgment is being prepared.

Circuit Court, Tenth Judicial Circuit, Jefferson County, Alabama

Civil Action No. SV85 2222

Litigation styled:

TOMMY A. WEAVER, PLAINTIFF

*vs.*

THE AMERICAN LEGION; AMERICAN LEGION POST #113; RALPH WILSON, an individual; Defendants A, B, and C, those persons or entities that caused the Plaintiff to be falsely imprisoned; Defendants D, E and F, those persons or entities that caused Plaintiff to be maliciously prosecuted; Defendants G, H and I, those agents and/or employees of The American Legion and/or American Legion Post #113 who caused the plaintiff to be falsely imprisoned and/or maliciously prosecuted; and all of those true names and identities are otherwise unknown, but will be substituted by amendment when ascertained, DEFENDANTS

This case was initially served on The American Legion April 22, 1985, by Registered Mail—Return Receipt Requested. Plaintiff claims he was unlawfully arrested and imprisoned on a charge of Second Degree Theft of Property.

Nothing more is known about this case. Motions will be filed once the discovery process reveals the facts.

No. 85C-MR6, Civil Action 19

Litigation styled:

EDWARD H. HICKS and JESSIE CORDELIA HICKS, his wife, PLAINTIFF

*v.*

THE AMERICAN LEGION, a United States corporation, CHARLES E. WILLIAMS, ROBINA DRYDEN MCGREGOR, and SUSSEX POST NO. 8 AMERICAN LEGION, INC., DEFENDANT

This case was not received at the National Headquarters of The American Legion until May 15, 1985. It was forwarded to our insurance carrier by Federal Express Overnight Delivery the same date.

The Complaint alleges that Defendant, The American Legion, was an employer of Defendant Charles E. Williams, a resident of Sussex County, Delaware, and that on March 26, 1983, Defendant Williams, operating an ambulance, owned by The American Legion, drove into an automobile owned and operated by Robina Dryden McGregor, while Plaintiffs were occupants of the ambulance driven by Defendant Williams. The Complaint alleges that in all counts Defendant Williams negligently and wantonly failed to operate his vehicle in a diligent manner. Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, for the injuries alleged therein, together with interest thereon and the costs of this action.

An appearance has been filed. Negotiations about dismissing the case against The American Legion are continuing.

Litigation styled:

JAMES DONALD CROWNOVER and wife, JACQUELINE CROWNOVER, individually and as next friend for DEREK CROWNOVER, PLAINTIFF

*v.*

THE AMERICAN LEGION, THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE and AMERICAN LEGION POST #16

The Complaint in this case was served June 26, 1985. Plaintiff alleges that Derek Crownover was hurt playing second base for an American Legion Baseball Team sponsored by American Legion Post #43, of Tullahoma, Tennessee. Plaintiff further alleges a player for Defendant American Legion Post #16 was told to "take out the second baseman" to avoid a double play and that this caused Derek's injury. Plaintiff further claims that the manager for the team sponsored by Post #16 was not present in violation of the rules and that this contributed to the injury. Plaintiffs seek $100,000.

The case has been referred to our insurance carrier.

### The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof

In accordance with the provisions of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) the Office of the National Judge Advocate has filed all of the necessary Annual Return Reports and allied documents for the calendar year 1984 with the Internal Revenue Service in connection with The American Legion Retirement Plan for Employees of the National Headquarters and Subordinate Groups Thereof. The Office of the National Judge Advocate also prepared the Summary Annual Report for the Legion's Retirement Plan and arranged the distribution thereof as required by law.

### Opinions Rendered

The National Judge Advocate has rendered 837 written opinions on questions which have been submitted by the several Departments and/or Posts of The American Legion, National Officers, staff members and individual members of our organization. These opinions involved matters legal, such as contracts, probate matters, federal tax questions, torts, insurance matters, articles of incorporation, civil rights' statutes, retirement benefits under ERISA and TEFRA and other matters of a legal nature: problems concerning the interpretation and construction of the National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion, policy matters, its Departments and Posts, many of which matters required a great deal of legal research. In each instance, when appropriate, a copy of the opinion rendered was furnished to each of the following so that they would be acquainted with the decision affecting their Department: National Executive Committeeman, Department Commander, Department Adjutant, and the Department Judge Advocate of the Department involved.

Many oral opinions were also rendered to the National Officers, National Commission Chairmen, to Department Officers, and to statff Directors of the national organization upon subjects involving matters legal, financial, administrative and policy.

There were 41 written opinions rendered during the year to the National Secretary of the American Legion Auxiliary, in response to queries submitted to her for determination by me.

The National Judge Advocate has also rendered oral advice on matters legal and administrative to the National Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary on many occasions during the past year.

### The American Legion Magazine

The National Judge Advocate in accordance with established policy, has reviewed all manuscripts of articles destined for future publication in The American Legion Magazine, for the purpose of expunging statements or material questionable in character, contained therein which might subject The American Legion to a suit in libel. To date 128 manuscripts have been reviewed and appropriate comments in connection therewith were transmited, when necessary, to the Publisher of The American Legion Magazine.

### Firing Line

At the 1955 National Convention of The American Legion it was concluded that all statement made in each issue of the Firing Line should be documented and that the National Judge Advocate should review and approve each issue prior to publication in order to protect The American Legion from actions in libel. In accordance therewith, all issues have been reviewed and either approved by the National Judge Advocate prior to publication, or rejected in whole or in part, with appropriate comments.

### Employees' Salary Savings (401(k)) Plan

In accordance with the provisions of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) the Office of the National Judge Advocate has filed all of the necessary Annual Return Reports and allied documents for the calendar year 1984 with the Internal Revenue Service in connection with The American Legion Employees' Salary Savings (401(k)) Plan. The Office of the National Judge Advocate also prepared the Summary Annual Report for the Employees' Salary Savings Plan and arranged the distribution thereof as required by law.

### Parliamentary Duties

The National Judge Advocate attended the past National Convention of The American Legion and all meetings of the National Executive Committee and has served both bodies in the capacity of National Parliamentarian.

### Meetings of the National Retirement Committee

The National Judge Advocate, as a member of the National Retirement Committee of National Headquarters, The American Legion, has attended and participated in all meetings held by this Committee during the past year.

### Meetings of the National Employees' Salary Savings Committee

The National Judge Advocate, as Chairman of The American Legion Employees' Salary Savings Committee, has attended and conducted all meetings held by this Committee since its founding pursuant to the resolution adopted by the National Executive Committee at its May 9-10, 1984 meeting.

I have also, in response to requests, drafted legal and other documents for the use of National Officers, and Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Last, during the past year I have met with and attended numerous conferences with officials of outside corporations, for the purpose of representation or for the rendering of advice and guidance for and on behalf of The American Legion on matters legal and administrative.

In conclusion, the National Judge Advocate wishes to thank all National Officers, Department officials, and members of the National Executive Committee for the valuable assistance and cooperation extended to him during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

P.B. ONDERDONK, Jr.,
*National Judge Advocate.*

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

WILLIAM D. JACKSON, Indiana, *Executive Director*

The Executive Director, whose office is located in the National Headquarters, Indianapolis, has four major responsibilities.

(1) He performs such duties as may be assigned to him by the National Adjutant to assist in meeting the myriad responsibilities of that office and during temporary absences of the National Adjutant from the American Legion National Headquarters, acts for him.

(2) He heads the Administrative Services Division and through it supervises and coordinates the many administrative functions of the Indianapolis Headquarters.

(3) He serves on the Personnel Committee of the Headquarters and is Chairman of the Management Review Board.

(4) He coordinates EDP-Computer operations, which has a Director reporting to the Executive Director.

Included in the Administrative Services Division of the Indianapolis Headquarters are the following administrative functions: Purchasing; Graphic Arts; General Supply . . . stock, receiving, shipping; Library, Archives, E. A. Blackmore Museum; Printing and Communications; building maintenance; Cafeteria; Personnel Division; Finance section and Insurance section.

The Administrative Services Division also provides all secretarial assistance to the executive officers of the American Legion.

### Computer Center

The EDP-Computer Center is currently responsible for the following programs:

Updating of "The American Legion Magazine," SAL, FIRING LINE, Advance, and Legislative Bulletin mailing lists and the printing of mailing labels and renewal notices.

Production of direct membership renewal notices and registers.

The production of membership cards and registers, department accounting reports, statistical information, questionnaire reports and welcome back notices

The printing of department paper mailing labels, upon request.

PUFL members updating and financial checks.

The maintenance of inventory controls, purchasing controls and billing applications for The Amiercan Legion Emblem Division.

Emblem Sales invoices and reports.
Production of all general ledger accounting information.
Maintenance of the mailing list for the Extension Institute.
Production of audit control and circulation analysis reports for "The American Legion Magazine."
Production of inventory control and purchase order control of National Headquarters.
Accounts receivable.
Retirement Investment program.
Furniture and Fixtures Inventory and Depreciation reports.
Direct mail solicitation programs.
Consolidated Post Reporting.
National Commission and Committee list.
Post Office carrier route discount processing on all department and Magazine labels.

**Statistical Tables**

The following statistical tables are indicative of the volume of work routinely performed by this Division:

*Mail, June 1, 1984 through May 31, 1985*

| | |
|---|---|
| Incoming letters (distributed to various divisions for processing) | 6,439,589 |
| Incoming parcels | 971 |
| Outgoing letters | 171,973 |
| Outgoing parcels (exclusive of national emblem sales) | 106,674 |

*Freight and express, June 1, 1984 through May 31, 1985*

| | |
|---|---|
| Out (cartons) | 1,840 |
| Out (pounds) | 72,527 |
| UPS (in) | 3,957 |
| UPS (out) | 6,866 |
| Permit #719 outgoing | 2,951,461 |

*Printing and Communications, June 1, 1984 through May 31, 1985*

| | |
|---|---|
| Envelopes and labels addressed | 323,490 |
| Letters transcribed | 337 |
| IBM displaywriter | 31,554 |
| A/M varityper/processor | 60,771 |
| Telegrams (In 360, out 571) | 931 |
| Binding | 4,200 |
| 9400 | 1,878,483 |
| 3300 | 174,535 |
| Reprographics facility (print shop) | 7,079,977 |

# LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

## Library

THOMAS V. HULL, *Librarian*

Satisfactory progress has continued during the year in increasing our various records, such as: the book collection, national and department records, American Legion publications, pamphlet and subject correspondence files, biographies of prominent Legionnaires and miscellaneous material.

Noteworthy gift: the papers and scrapbooks of the late Harry W. Colmery, Topeka, Kansas, national commander of the The American Legion (1936–1937).

Special appreciation is extended to Mr. & Mrs. George H. Cornelius, Jr. for various memorial books, and to Mr. Robert H. Barnes for military aviation books.

*Statistical summary of 12 months (June 1, 1984–May 31, 1985)*

| | |
|---|---|
| General correspondence received coded and filed | 15,222 |
| Subject correspondence received coded and filed | 7,713 |
| Bulletins, minutes, reports, etc. received and filed | 584 |
| Pamphlets and clippings received and filed | 886 |
| Periodicals received | 2,791 |
| History material filed | 1,202 |
| Folders and guides made | 570 |
| Books catalogued | 36 |
| Letters written—National Historian | 782 |
| Letters written—National Librarian | 694 |
| Prominent Legionnaires mailed questionnaires | 100 |
| Prominent Legionnaires returned questionnaires | 74 |
| Prominent Legionnaire Death Memos made | 69 |
| Prominent Legionnaire card entries | 9,719 |
| NEC Mandate cards made and filed | 131 |
| National Convention Mandate cards made and filed | 164 |
| Inter-Library loans and Outside service | 9 |
| Requests answered (persons coming into the library) | 850 |
| Requests answered by telephone | 1,949 |
| Requests answered by pneumatic tube | 584 |
| Requests answered by inter-office mail | 55 |
| Follow-ups sent | 304 |
| Materials loaned | 5,606 |
| Microfilming (pages) | 16, 953 |
| Microfiche (pieces of correspondence and/or resolutions | 19,063 |
| Alpha List requests | 1,054 |

# EMIL A. BLACKMORE MUSEUM

THOMAS V. HULL, *Curator*

Many American Legionnaires, their families and friends visited our museum this past year.

Significant objects added this year include:

Caisson wheel from the Meuse Argonne Offensive, France, First World War, 1918, gift of late General Frank R. Swengel.

Bronze plaque honoring James F. O'Neil, past national commander of The American Legion (1947–1948), for 28 years service as Publisher of The American Legion Magazine, presented at the 1978 national convention of American Legion in New Orleans.

Bronze Point Athletic Trophy awarded to Francis A. Byrd American Legion Post No. 35, Norfolk, Virginia, at 1922 national convention in New Orleans.

Gavel given National Commander James F. O'Neil in 1948 by the department of Utah Legionnaires.

Framed photograph of the Allied Commanders of World War I, gift of Ed Bahret, past vice commander of department of Florida, American Legion.

American flag presented to Harry W. Colmery, past national commander of American Legion by General John J. Pershing for assistance given him in the dedication of European cemeteries following World War I.

Gavel presented to National Commander Harry W. Colmery by national headquarters and his department commanders at the 1937 national convention in New York City.

Facsimile copy of the charter of John J. Pershing Post No. 1, Washington, D.C., dated March 31, 1919, first post chartered in The American Legion. Original copy is in the Library of Congress. Donation made by Mrs. Minne Belle Hickman, Historian Emeritus, American Legion Department of the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C. (1,161 members names on the charter including Captain Eddie Rickenbacker).

# AMERICANISM COMMISSION

DALE L. RENAUD, Iowa, *Chairman*

K. MICHAEL AYERS, Indiana, *Director*

The National Americanism Commission of The American Legion was created by a recommendation made to and adopted by the National Convention held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1919. The recommendation reads as follows: "We recommend the establishment of a National Americanism Commission of The American Legion, whose duty shall be the endeavor to realize in the United States the basic ideal of this Legion of 100 per cent Americanism through the planning, establishment and conduct of a continuous, constructive educational system."

It is the objective of the National Americanism Commission to translate Americanism precepts, principles and ideals in the understanding and practical manner to Legion Posts and other groups and individuals, including Young America.

While the Americanism program consists of a broad, objective, general program featuring wide-range community service, better citizenship, youth development and counter-subversive activities, the efforts of the National Americanism Commission are educational in nature and embrace specific objectives as follows:

To promote understanding of the principles of democratic government developing interest in governmental problems, and bringing more citizens to think seriously of the duties of citizenship;

To give sound, practical service in our communities, working to make these communities better and safer places in which to live;

To emphasize religion, encouraging its continuation in the life of every citizen;

To encourage education in every possible manner, presenting School Awards, conducting Oratorical Contests, cooperating with education and citizenship groups, promoting proper Flag Etiquette and display, and sponsoring objective youth-development programs;

To do important work for the youth of America, sponsoring Baseball, the National High School Oratorical Contest, Boys State, Boys Nation, Boy Scout activities and many other citizenship and objective-training activities.

To work for the assimilation of aliens through schools of citizenship and other agencies, and stand for the restriction of immigration so that this assimilation may approach perfection;

To combat subversion and all unAmerican groups and activities which have for their aim the downfall of democracy in America.

In addition, the National Americanism Commission has continued to be actively involved in legislative matters affecting our democratic way of life. Among our legislative concerns are illegal entry of aliens into this country, voluntary prayer in public buildings, the formation of an FBI Charter and the need for Congressional Internal Security Committees to combat terrorism within the United States.

Also, this Commission has the responsibility for supervision and coordination of two National Standing Committees—the Counter-Subversive Activities Committee and the National Committee on Education.

Following is a report of the various program areas which are the responsibility of the National Americanism Commission and have been implemented during the 1985 American Legion year.

### Boys State/Boys Nation

The American Legion believes there is no better way to assure the survival of our republic than to train our young people in the ideals and objectives of America's Democratic form of government. By teaching youth to understand and appreciate the principles involved in the successful management of a democratic society, we can keep America strong and ensure freedom for future generations. These are the distinguished and long-standing objectives of Boys States.

Boys State developed from the concept that youth should be offered a better perspective of the practical operation of government; that the individual is an integral part and commensurately responsible for the character and success of his government.

Begun in Illinois in 1935, Boys State was founded, and its courses of instruction designed, to supplement the information taught in the high school curriculum. It was born out of a desire to counter the Fascist-inspired Young Pioneer Camps of the 1930's, where boys of high school age were being taught that democracy had outworn its usefulness. It's a unique program, one that emphasizes not classroom lectures or textbook learning, but participation and personal experience in a model state, complete with its governing bodies and elected officials.

This year, 1985, marks the Golden Anniversary of the Boys State program, and with an annual enrollment of more than 28,000 top young American men, The American Legion has graduated well in excess of one million from the program over those fifty years.

Every year each Boys State selects two outstanding graduates to represent them at American Legion Boys Nation. Held in Washington, DC, this year from July 19–27, it is here that the Delegates are introduced first-hand to the structure and function of the federal government.

The week of government training in the Nation's Capitol combines lectures and forums with visitations to federal agencies and institutions, shrines and historical spots in and about Washington. Actual participation in the political process is highlighted through the week to include the organization of party conventions and the nomination and election of a Boys Nation President and Vice President. In addition to federal legislators and representatives of federal agencies, organization and lay leaders of national distinction participate in Boys Nation.

Marcus R. Dilworth, Jr., Yazoo City, Mississippi was elected President of the 40th Annual Boys Nation. We will join the Youth Chamption delegation as a guest of the National Commander at the National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. Daniel M. Bricken, Sunriver, Oregon was elected Vice President.

### Oratorical

The American Legion has continued to sponsor a competitive annual scholarship program since 1938, which is open to high school students. Scholarships are awarded for the purpose of education beyond high school. This program, offered through The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest, has had the approval, since 1943, of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Each year the following scholarship awards are made: National Finals: First Place—$16,000; Second Place—$14,000; Third Place; $10,000; and Fourth Place—$8,000. Competition begins locally and progresses through the Department (State) to the National rounds. Each winner who is certified into, and participates in the Regional Contest receives at $1,000 scholarship. Likewise, each Regional Winner who is eliminated in the Sectionals receives a $1,000 scholarship. Since the beginning of the Contest, the National Organization of The American Legion has awarded over one million dollars in cash scholarships. Funds for these awards are provided by The American Legion Life Insurance Trust Fund.

Each contestant must give a prepared oration on some phase of the United States Constitution, giving emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to his government. Prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant, taking not less than eight nor more than ten minutes of delivery. Each contestant must also give an extemporaneous discourse on a Constitutional topic (not known until time of Contest), taking not less than three nor more than five minutes of delivery.

The 185 National Finals were held at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, and the four finalists were: First Place—Gwen Connolly, Cedarburg, Wisconsin; Second Place—Anne-Marie Deitering, Aurora, Oregon; Third Place—Christopher Jordan, Smithfield, North Carolina; Fourth Place—Brian Domitorvic, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

### Boy Scouts of America

The American Legion continues to share the mutual objective of "For God and Country" with the Boy Scouts of America. Emphasis comes through the sponsorship of nearly 3,000 scout troops by American Legion Posts in communities across the Country.

For 1985, The American Legion selected Peter Kaboli as the Legion Scout of the Year, for his outstanding religious, school, community and scouting achievements

He is from Dennellson, Iowa. He will receive an $8,000 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school, the money for which is provided by The American Legion Life Insurance Trust Fund. He was sponsored by American Legion Post No. 474, Donnellson Iowa. He has taken courses at Southeastern Community College as a high school senior and plans a career in medicine.

**Flag Education**

The American Legion is a nationally recognized authority on the proper display of the United States Flag. Each year hundreds of letters and phone calls are routinely answered giving factual information on the display, use of and respect for the American Flag.

Additionally, over 74,000 copies of our publication, "Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette" and nearly 100,000 copies of the pamphlet "Flag of the United States—How to Display It, How to Respect It" are distributed annually to schools, organizations and individuals. This information is sent at little or to cost to all who request it.

**Service to God and Country**

A program of basic Americanism, this program seeks to prevent a spiritual decay of America by charging the citizenry with a spirit of positive Americanism, respect for law, reverence for authority and awareness of our human rights and freedoms.

"Service to God" emphasizes regular public worship, daily family prayer and the religious education of children, while "Service to Country" attempts to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, State and Nation. These objectives are aimed at preparing our young Americans to take up tomorrow's responsibilities by teaching them moral and spiritual values, renewed interest in our Country's history, self-discipline, self-reliance, thrift, ideals of loyalty, honesty and physical fitness.

Each Fall, a Conference for the Department Chaplains is held under the direction of the National Chaplain. Training and program information is provided for further dissemination to District and Post Chaplains who coordinate the program at the local level.

**Education Program**

Education was one of the first major concerns of The American Legion. Early in its development, the organization committed itself to a constructive support of Education. During the following years, The American Legion developed a formal Policy on Education with these fundamental concepts.

*Fundamental concepts.*—The American Legion has always strongly supported the principle that education is a necessary prerequisite to the successful functioning of a democracy. While recognizing the right of private and religious groups to maintain schools, The American Legion vigorously subscribes to the necessity of a universal publicly supported system of primary, secondary and college education to insure that every American child has the oportunity for an adequate education. The American Legion believes that popular self-government as created by the covenant set forth in the Constitution of the United States, cannot continue to exist unless there is the bulwark of a continuing system of free public education. Not only does proper National defense require trained personnel, but the daily operations of our local, State and Federal Governments, our farms, our professions, our commerce and industry and, in fact, every phase of life today, demands that we have competent citizens, who are qualified, willing and able to discharge their responsibilities.

The availability of educational opportunity for every individual to pursue his own development is a prerequisite to the achievement of all other social goals. Our education system must, therefore, be designed to provide every person the means to reach his highest potential, which, in turn, will provide our Country as a whole with the high level of responsible citizens and specialized workers which it requires. In turn, we will have greater assurance of economic growth, of sound decision-making, and the knowledge necessary to promote our National security.

This educational system should produce citizens who understand and who are dedicated to the principles of free enterprise; to democratic principles and processes; and whose devotion to freedom and human dignity goes beyond mere lip service.

*Elements of the program.*—The Education Program consists of basically three elements: (1) Recognition of local systems through observance and activities of American Education Week; (2) Dissemination of scholarship and financial aid information through the publication of "Need A Lift?"; and (3) Promotion of involvement by American Legion Posts and American Legion Auxiliary Units in a community-wide

effort to enhance the programs and policies of the local schools through the guidelines provided in the handbook PACT (Post, Auxiliary, Community Together).

*American Education Week.* American Education Week is an annual event co-sponsored nationally by The American Legion, the National Education Association, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the National School Boards Association and the Department of Education. The observance was originally established by The American Legion with the help of the National Education Association in 1921. The major objective of this program is to focus public attention on the needs and achievements of the Nation's schools. This year's theme, "America's Schools: The Subject is Excellence" is a recognition that a strong educational program will continue to maintain all our rights and privileges. The observance is scheduled to begin on Sunday, November 17 and conclude on Saturday, November 23, 1985. Helpful pamphlets and suggestions have been prepared for distribution to all American Legion Posts as they formulate plans for their observance.

*"Need a Lift?"*—This publication, revised each year, contains 144 pages of scholarships, grants and loan information, work-study cooperative programs and sources for career information for all students. A special section is directed to the veteran and his/her dependents and a section listing the scholarships and financial aids available from the Departments of The American Legion.

A companion publication is the pamphlet "A Guide for Parents and Students" which contains valuable information for thoughtful high school students and their parents in planning for a career, the necessary educational training and financing. Distribution of over 100,000 copies of each of these publications is handled through American Legion Posts, schools, counselors and librarians, by mail to all public and private high schools and individual requests, and by exhibiting with free distribution at the National Conventions of the American Association for Counseling and Development, the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National School Boards Association. Copies can also be obtained by writing: "Need A Lift?", The American Legion National Emblem Sales Division, P.O. Box 1050, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206. Individual copies of "Need a Lift?" are $1 post-paid or $75 per 100, plus shipping and handling. "A Guide for Parents and Students" are available at a cost of $12.50 per 500 or $18.75 per 1,000 copies.

*PACT Handbook.*—This handbook is the guide for the American Legion Education Chairman. It contains information on the goals and objectives of the program, ideas and suggestions for activities, coordinating concepts and a typical calendar of a successful program. Programs covered in the handbook include: Citizenship Education; Career Education activities such as Career Nights, Community Resource Files and Adopt-a School; and Financial Aid Nights.

*Commitment.*—The American Legion further believes that the citizens of this country should be dedicated to pursuance of excellence in the entire realm of intellectual endeavor; that our people should recognize and esteem those pesons who have developed their intellectual abilities to the fullest extent; that teachers should enrich their knowledge and capacity, particularly in the fields in which they teach and that scholarship assistance to deserving students should be expanded.

Such an educational program will fulfill the dreams of the past, the aspirations of the present and the needs of the future. The American Legion supports such a system of education, and believes that the vitality of our democratic way of life is dependent upon such schools.

*School Medal Award Program.*—Thousands of young students are recipients of the American Legion School Medal Award each year. This program is designed to recognize the young people for the following purposes.

COURAGE.—Bravery in the face of opposition and danger; determination and force to do the right thing without public applause and regardless of personal advantage. A quality of intellect.

HONOR.—Highly-developed moral character; moral excellence; strength and stability of character; high standards of conduct, devotion to duty; adherence to truth; keen sense of what is right; practice of clean speech.

LEADERSHIP.—Ability to lead and to accomplish through group action; ability to work in harmony and in unison with other leaders in accomplishing group results; desire and ability to fill the voids in the lives of others caused by timidity, illiness or other handicaps.

PATRIOTISM.—An ideal of loyal Americanism, religion tolerance, righteous freedom, and the willingness to defend our Flag against all enemies—foreign or domestic. Perhaps best defined in the American's Creed.

SCHOLARSHIP.—Attainments in school studies; quality of school work reflecting the fine traits of industry, perseverance, efficiency and intelligence.

SERVICE.—Kindliness, unselfishness, fellowship, protection of the weak, promotion of the interests and welfare of associates and constructive aid for the upbuilding of schools and community.

*Eight and Forty National Lung and Respiratory Disease Scholarship Program.*—The American Legion develops, publicizes and administers the Eight and Forty National Lung and Respiratory Disease Nursing Scholarship Program, which has for its objective the preparation of nurses at the graduate level in order that they may serve in the area of prevention and care as it relates to Lung and Respiratory Diseases throughout the United States. The Eight and Forty, for the year 1985–86 awarded twenty scholarships at $2,000 each, bringing its accumulative total of 399 awards and $586,500. This scholarship program will again be offered for the 1986–87 school year.

### Marksmanship

In cooperation with The American Legion, The National Rifle Association conducts annual individual and team postal rifle and pistol matches for Legionnaires and rifle matches for members of the Sons of The American Legion (SAL). This program is designed for American Legion Posts as a recreational activity which will stimulate interest not only in rifle and pistol marksmanship, but also firearms safety.

### AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

American Legion Baseball celebrates its 60th anniversary in 1985. This program continues to provide young American youth with the opportunity to learn the rudiments of baseball and teaches them a code of sportmanship at the same time.

The American Legion Baseball Player of the Year in 1984 was Jorge Robles, an infielder for Jesus Bruno Post No. 134, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. Robles was honored at the Hall of Fame Game, Cooperstown, New York, July 29, 1985.

Ryne Sandberg of the Chicago Cubs was selected as the 1984 American Legion baseball Graduate of the Year and was so saluted by Past National Commander Al Keller, Jr. at special ceremonies prior to the game scheduled between the Cubs and the Los Angeles Dodgers at Chicago, July 13, 1985. The choice was made since Sanderg exemplifies the aims and principles of our program by his general good conduct on and off the field, his cooperation with others, his community service, his playing ability and his contribution to the sport and to youth. Slightly more than 54 percent of all 1984 major leaguers—493—played American Legion Baseball as teenagers.

Regional tournaments leading up to the 1985 World Series at Kokomo, Indiana, August 29—September 2 will be played at:

Northeastern (Region 1)—Bristol, Connecticut.
Mid-Atlantic (Region 2)—Boyertown, Pennsylvania.
Southeastern (Region 3)—Cherryville, North Carolina.
Mid-South (Region 4)—Woodward, Oklahoma.
Great Lakes (Region 5)—New Ulm, Minnesota.
Central Plains (Region 6)—Cape Girardeau, Missouri.
Pacific Northwest (Region 7)—Lewiston, Idaho.
Western (Region 8)—Long Beach, California.

Rapid City, South Dakota will host the 1986 World Series and Stevens Point, Wisconsin has been awarded the 1987 event.

For the 1985 season of American Legion Baseball, 3,592 teams desiring to participate in national competition have been certified to National Headquarters. This is a slight increase over 1984's total. It is estimated that 250 teams not certified for national competition also participated in the Legion Baseball program during the 1985 season.

The 25th Annual National Baseball Conference will be held at Indianapolis, Indiana, September 21–22, 1985. Fifty states and Puerto Rico will send baseball chairmen to discuss and recommend policy for the 1986 American Legion Baseball season.

## COUNTER-SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

F. RODNEY LOPER, Pennsylvania, *Chairman*

The Counter-Subversive Activities Committee, since its establishment by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion on November 17, 1950, has scrutinized and continues to monitor what is transpiring in the realm of subversion and terrorism. This is a program of the Americanism and Children & Youth Divi-

son, and detailed reports of its activities are given to the National Executive Committee. The Counter-Subversive Activities Committee reports to the National Americanism Commission at its Spring, National Convention, and Fall Meetings concerning its function during these periods.

This Committee consists of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, National Commander's Representative, three Consultants and fifteen Members. During each calendar year, it is responsible for furnishing background information on the many resolutions which are assigned to it, prior to presentation to the National Americanism Commission for recommended action to the National Executive Committee and also to the Convention Committee on Americanism at the National Convention.

The Nation Americanism Commission has always been concerned with this phase of Americanism and, in 1952, a publication known as *Firing Line* began the dissemination of information regarding individuals and organizations whose goals were and still remain, the overthrow of our present form of government and the establishment of communism in one of its many ideological forms.

*Firing Line* has recently reported on: espionage at the United Nations; illegal aliens; draft resisters; MOVE; convicted spies; and terrorism reports around the world.

Every effort is made to maintain a publication which is not only current in its content but also one which contains information of vital importance in these crucial times when subversion and terrorism are rampant.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DR. W.F. HAYNIE, Texas, *Chairman*

The National Committee on Education, established in 1976, meets twice each year and is the only joint committee of both The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. The Committee is made up of six Legionnaires appointed by the National Commander, two Legionnaires appointed by the National Americanism Chairman and three Auxiliary members appointed by the National Present.

The purposes of the National Committee shall be: (1) To inform itself and The American Legion of developments, problems and potentials in the field of education; (2) To recommend appropriate policies and programs for The American Legion; and (3) To maintain contact with the educational community so that there may be an interchange of thinking between The American Legion and educators, students and other organizations concerned with the well-being of education throughout the Nation.

The degree of success of this Committee is determined by the priority assigned and sincerity of appointment given to similar committees at the Department and Post levels.

# COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

EUGENE V. LINDQUIST, Minnesota, *Chairman*

K. MICHAEL AYERS, Indiana, *Director*

For over 60 years, The American Legion has been a "trailblazer" in pinpointing the problems of children and youth and in developing workable solutions acceptable to the majority. This concern has brought about improved conditions for all children in the community, state and nation. From the early days of specific emphasis on the children and widows of departed comrades to our modern-day, universal approach geared to meeting the pressing needs of all children, The American Legion is proud of its thousands of volunteers who have given of themselves to make our annual national effort one of the finest in this nation.

The purpose of The American Legion's Children & Youth program is indeed broad, and to be accomplished, it must be guided by a sound strategy. This plan of strategy is embodied in three basic principles which have provided guidance for many years. These principles are flexible, having withstood drastic changes in our way of life. This flexibility has blended practicality and conciseness, enabling the great forces of The American Legion to be channeled effectively on behalf of our nation's children and youth.

*Strengthen the Family Unit.*—This basic unit of our society may be the last bulwark against the forces of today's complex society. There is no substitute for good parents, even though government, churches and private agencies provide many services for children and youth. Today our way of life has become increasingly complex, making the role of parent more important than ever in the proper development of children. For this reason, many of our programs rely heavily on the integrity of the home.

*Maintain a Well-Rounded Program.*—The needs of today's children are constantly changing. This principle recognizes that a child's physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual needs are inseparable and of equal importance. A sound, national Children & Youth program must be geared to satisfy all of these needs.

*Support and Strengthen Other Organizations.*—It is not the purpose of our program to establish duplicate services and assistance for children. Sound, existing services for children and youth should be supported by American Legion Posts and Departments and utilized whenever possible.

### 1985 Program

This program year, the Commission on Children & Youth was faced with many worthy programs from which were selected the following three major areas of concern:

1. Alcohol and Drug Abuse.
2. Teenage Suicide Prevention.
3. Missing Children.

Although these areas where chosen for national emphasis, it is important to note that Departments, Districts, Posts and Units of The American Legion and its Auxiliary also gave support to many local and regional problem areas within their communities.

*Alcohol and Drug Abuse.*—Drug abuse is a problem in nearly every community. The degree of abuse and the substance may vary greatly, but you can be sure that it's there. Drugs are probably being abused in your neighborhood, possibly in your home, maybe even by you.

A drug, by definition, is any chemical substance that brings about physical, emotional or mental changes in people. Abuse describes the use of any chemical substance, legal or illegal, which causes physical, mental, emotional or social harm to a person or people close to them. Abuse takes many forms, involves many different substances, and please don't forget that alcohol abuse is the number one drug problem in America today.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" still holds true, and the best way to stop drug abuse is by prevention. It's a simple concept, but it does require constant work to be successful. Prevention is a positive process which requires a basic understanding and strong commitment from parents. If children grow up with love and security, can express themselves freely, are realistic and yet optimistic about their abilities, and can make sound decisions, they will probably never become dependent on drugs.

Within the Legion alone, there are about 700,000 Vietnam-era veterans—parents of young children—who need to know about drugs and drug abuse so they can teach their children. Because of this, we encourage our volunteers to enlist the expertise of local agencies who will come to the Post or community center and explain to them what they need to know about drugs. Our major thrust with this program is parent education and how they, in turn, can help their children understand this devastating problem.

*Teenage Suicide Prevention.*—According to statistics, the suicide rate for persons under the age 21 has tripled since 1955. Every hour, at least one American teenager of young adult has committed suicide, and as many as 40 have made the attempt.

Data shows that suicide is the second largest killer among college-age students and the third largest killer among early and middle teens. It is a very sad commentary on today's society that so many young people seek to eliminate their troubles by taking their own lives.

The socio-economic patterns of suicide of the past are no longer accurate barometers to focus attention on. Suicide has developed into an epidemic killer of this nation's young people from all walks of life. The following is a list of findings that have resulted from research around the country on suicides:

Eight out of ten people that kill themselves give some warning of their intentions.

Many suicides occur around three months after there has been some improvement of their troubles.

Suicide is represented proportionately among all income groups.

Suicide does not automatically run in families.

Studies of hundreds of suicide notes indicate that although the person is very unhappy, he/she is not necessarily mentally ill.

Nearly half of all suicide attempts are drug-related.

Many happen in split families or where a poor parent/child relationship exists.

They want to be with a departed loved one.

Anniversary suicides are not uncommon.

Four out of five who actually commit suicide have tried to do so at least once previously.

One of the disadvantages of high technology is that it helps to create a fast-paced society, expecting more and more of what the technology offers. Our young people are getting caught up in this "fast lane" of society before they are physically or emotionally ready for it.

It is imperative that any adult who has daily contact with young people educate themselves on the warning signs of suicide if we are to decrease the numbers of this tragic area. This nation cannot afford to let one of its greatest natural resources go to such waste.

*Missing Children.*—It is estimated that between one and two million young people disappear each year. This is an estimated figure because no agency at the federal, state or local level has ever kept an accurate count. Other items such as vehicles and jewelry are always looked for and most often found. Why not for a young human life? These priorities must change in our society if the welfare of our youth is to come first. Many children in our country are sold, physically and sexually abused, forced into prostitution, used in pornographic literature and movies, abandoned to the streets, stolen by one parent to get even with the other parent, or abducted just to be murdered.

This tragic occurrence cannot be tolerated in our society. There is a great deal of education needed by young people and adults in understanding the need of precautions to be taken to keep this from happening. There is also a great deal of legislation needed that will both assist law enforcement agencies in searching for these youngsters and severely punish the perpetrators for the exploitation of these children. The American Legion and its Auxiliary have embarked on a nationwide community education and precaution program. Many of our volunteers are putting on programs in schools and working in conjunction with their law enforcement people on voluntary fingerprinting programs.

We must see a drastic turn around in the numbers associated with this problem if these children are to be given a chance for a healthy, productive way of life.

**Continuing Programs**

*Special Olympics.*—Since the dawn of man, the "different" of their respective cultures have been separated from the "normal." The Special Olympics program bridges that gap, emotionally as well as physically. Thousands of volunteers donate thousands of dollars and hours of time annually in community and state athletic contests, giving the mentally retarded a chance to experience and achieve productivity.

This program is not merely an exericse for the body; it's an exercise in life that teaches these individuals that achievement, through their own effort, is an attainable goal. Many of the athletes can, and are quite capable of, assisting in the coaching and training of the other athletes in events they have excelled in.

The Special Olympics program allows these individuals the chance to be an active member in their society, not just a separated bystander *of* it.

The need for volunteers in this program is not only enormous, it is essential if the program is to continue to thrive and enjoy its current success. It is our sincerest hope that the community volunteers will always be there to keep this program alive and well, because the largest benefactor of this great endeavor is the character of our society.

*Temporary Financial Assistance.*—This program is the landmark of the Children & Youth activities. From the very start, it voiced the concern of our founders for the care of veterans' children. It is still a very active program of the Children & Youth Commission, and for the past few years we have seen a steady increase in the amounts of assistance required for needy veteran families.

The fund is used to assist families in meeting the costs, of shelter, food, utilities, and health income when the parents are unable to do so. We are thereby helping to keep the child(ren) in a more stable home envirnoment.

Through the program of TFA, a Post may call upon the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division for cash assistance to help met the basic needs of veterans' children. Funds can be granted over a temporary period to eligible children when it has been determined by investigation that the child is in need and that no other sources are available or those that are available are inadequate.

Temporary Financial Assistance is a vital tool used by The American Legion to help insure the child of a veteran is allowed to develop in the home.

*Holloween.*—The "Make Holloween a Safe and Fun Night" program is now entering its 13th year of national emphasis. It developed from the horror of the early 1970's, when nationwide attention was focused on our children being maimed and drugged by "treats" they had been given while making their rounds for that evening.

There are many activities that can be planned at the community level to reduce the risks of children being harmed during this time of the year.

The national office of The American Legion publishes a brochure that passes along ideas and safety tips to aid in keeping this a fun and festive occasion. These brochures are available through our state organizations and all are encouraged to use them to help protect the well being of our children.

*Special Post Activity Award.*—This is a program that has replaced the April Incentive program. Many of Posts operate activities throughout the year and not always in April when the Legion and Auxiliary celebrate Children & Youth Month. This change makes these Posts eligible for awards that, up until now, were only given for activities that were held in April.

This program offers recognition and awards for those Posts reporting the best programs or activities. Awards are offered to Posts in four membership categories, and recognition is given to all participants. Winners receive these awards at the Department and national levels.

**National Leadership Workshops**

The regional gatherings provide a common ground for all levels of The American Legion to gather, learn and discuss issues of interest and concern. The year 1984 was the sixth year for these eight regional meetings. This past year, 1984, seminars wer held at:

Region 1—Providence, Rhode Island—September 21-23.
Region 2—Syracuse, New York—September 28-30.
Region 3—Mobile, Alabama—October 19-21.
Region 4—Oklahoma City, Oklahoma—September 14-16.

Region 5—St. Louis, Missouri—September 21-23.
Region 6—Fargo, North Dakota—September 28-30.
Region 7—Las Vegas, Nevada—October 19-21.
Region 8—Cheyenne, Wyoming—September 14-16.

Even though the travels of today are expensive, and the demands on time are many, we continue to enjoy an average turnout of around 500 delegates at each seminar. This is a leading indicator that our community-level volunteers place these programs at a high level of priority.

**Legislative Efforts**

The initiation and support of worthwhile legislation is one means by which the Children & Youth Commission has attemtped to accomplish its goals during the 1984-85 program year. At our National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, September 3-5, 1984, the following resolutions were introduced for our attention:

*Combatting Reye's Syndrome.*—Res. 598 requests the assistance in the fight of a childhood disease for which the mortality rate is determined to be 20 to 40 percent fatal. Estimates consistently proclaim the actual deaths from Reye's Syndrome exceed reported cases by a rate of ten to one.

The incidence of Reye's varies greatly in any given geographical region from year to year, and an accurate accounting of the number of actual cases would help reveal the cause, cure, prevention and treatment of this disease.

The American Legion urges the Congress of the United States to adopt legislation to benefit and augment the existing knowledge of Reye's Syndrome, to the end that this threat to the lives of our nation's young people is diminished.

*Adoptive children with special needs.*—Res. 599 seeks assistance for the more that 100,000 children who are now considered unadoptable because of their age, race, ethnic group, mental, physical or emotional disabilities.

A crucial factor in adoption of children with "special needs" is the high cost of medical care often impossible to estimate, and those who would be willing to commit themselves to the involvement with and care for a physically or mentally handicapped child would need financial help.

The American Legion supports the passage of PL 96-272 and encourages Congress and the Office of Management Budget to continue its fiscal support to the fullest degree possible of this most vital legislation.

*National Family Week.*—Res. 597 stresses the importance of maintaining the integrity of the family home. It is fitting that official recognition be given to the importance of strengthening family life, as the family is the center of our affections and the foundation of our American society. There are no institutions that can take the place of the family in giving meaning to human life, and The American Legion urges the President of the United States and the Congress to establish "National Family Week" during Thanksgiving holiday week as an annual observance.

*Child pornography.*—Res. 268, unfortunately, reveals the increased use of children in pornographic magazines and films. To offset this disgrace, we are in need of stronger laws which, at present, are weak and inadequate. We are asking by this resolution that our state and federal legislators examine current statutes pertaining to child pornography. From such an examination, we are confindent that remedial action would be swift, as meaningful laws would be passed to protect our youngest generation from this sickening blight on our society.

*Catastrophic illness among children.*—Res. 596 reaffirms our position in urging the federal and state governments to enact the necessary legislation to assist financially those individual families faced by catastrophic illness of one of their children in order to maintain the integrity of the family, and that in lieu of a better approach, the present federal and state Crippled Children's Services program be expanded to include catastrophic illness, with each state developing its own definition and financial standards relating to catastrophic illness.

*Reaffirming Immunization Programs.*—Res. 595 reaffirms its posiiton of supporting the fullest use of any licensed vaccines to combat communicable diseases. We must also continue to stress that sufficient federal and state funds be provided so that medically indigent children may be afforded an opportunity to receive the necessary treatment and immunizations against all communicable diseases.

*Violence and Vandalism in the Schools.*—Res. 137 reveals that Juveniles account for approximately 35 percent of our population and for better than 50 percent of the serious crimes, as reported by the FBI Uniform Crime Reports. Many schools nationwide are experiencing serious, violent acts of crime and criminal damage. These acts affect the morale of students, teachers, administrators and parents, and they impede the educaional process. Through local efforts, community support can be

given to effective programs designed to reduce and prevent violence and vandalism in educational institutions. On the national level, the United States Congress, through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, could develop a grant program to assist public institutions and criminal justice agencies in bearing the financial burden to implement pro-active delinquency prevention programs.

*Summer Youth Employment Wage.*—Res. 600 explains that summer employment for young people 16–19 is a very serious problem. Our current minimum wage laws actually act as an impediment to youth who are seeking work. Many youth are unemployed because they lack necessary job skills to earn the minimum wage. This unfortunate cycle may cause adverse, long-term effects for many youth. To help remedy this situation, we are asking the United States Congress to seek and support the passage of legislation that would offer a special yough employment opportunity wage that could make it possible for employers to expand summer job opportunities for youth ages 16 to 19.

These are the highlights of our 1984 legislative program, as offered by the Commission on Children & Youth. This Commission has constantly urged its Departments of The American Legion to support Children & Youth legislation as it relates to national objectives. Local Posts are also encouraged to support city ordinances as they deal with the community's efforts to improve conditions for children and youth.

**Children & Youth Expenditures**

Annually, as it has for the past 60 years, the Commission on Children & Youth collects and tabulates reports of expenditures for Children & Youth activities from nearly 15,000 Posts of the American Legion, 12,000 Units of the American Legion Auxiliary, and the hundreds of Salons of the Eight and Forty. In addition, the expenditures of Departments and of the National Organization are obtained for the 12-month period of June 1 through May 31 and combined with these reports.

This year, Posts and Departments reported expenditures of $19,511,827. To this amount, we proudly add $4,012,242 contributed by the American Legion Auxiliary. An additional $236,018 was expended by the Eight and Forty, while $63,689 was given to families in need through our Temporary Financial Assistance program. To this, we add other contributions to the Child Welfare Foundation in the amount of $15,092. This amounts to a grand total of expenditures and contributions to the total Children & Youth program in the 1984–85 year of $23,838,868.

**Children & Youth Literature**

During the 1984–85 program year, tens of thousands of pieces of Children & Youth literature were distributed by the Americanism and Children & Youth Division as it attempted to further the objectives of the total Children & Youth program.

As shown in Table No. 5, the most popular publications were the annual Children Youth program publication and brochures on our three Areas of Concern—Missing Children, Drug Abuse and Teenage Suicide Prevention. It is of further interest to note that some 3,851 citations were distributed to Departments in order to recognize Posts for their contributions to the overall Children & Youth program.

**Appreciation Acknowledged**

Your Commission on Children & Youth and its Chairman welcome this opportunity to express their appreciation and commendation to the many members of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary who gave generously of their time, energy and personal funds to further the Children & Youth program this year. It has been an eventful year that would not have been possible without the cooperation and dedication of these thousands of volunteers. A special thanks to Commander Clarence Bacon for his support and encouragement of our programs. Likewise, to National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle, we extend our heartfelt thanks for his continued cooperation and understanding. The members of the American Legion Auxiliary deserve a special praise for their wholehearted cooperation and assistance on behalf of our program and its objectives. To the members of the Eight and Forty, who do such a tremendous job with their special assignment of assistance to children with respiratory disorders, we also extend our appreciation.

# COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

### Executive Section

Eugene V. Linquist, Clarissa, Minnesota, Chairman
Elmer Fuhrhop, Hamler, Ohio, Vice Chairman
Dan C. McDonough, Anchorage, Alaska, National Commander's Representative
Angelo J. Molinari, Rochester, New York, Consultant
Lee Guy, Breckenridge, Texas, Consultant
James M. Shade, Martinsburg, West Virginia, Consultant
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Clyde C. Ferguson, Dumfries, Virginia, Region 2 Chairman
Miss Josephine A. LoCicero, Holmes Beach, Florida, Region 3 Chairman
Leno O. Easky, Ponca City, Oklahoma, Region 4 Chairman
Robert Maxwell, Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin (Illinois), Region 5 Chairman
Willis E. Danekas, Raymond, South Dakota, Region 6 Chairman
Ray Martinez, Phoenix, Arizona, Region 7, Chairman
William A. Macmillan, Helena, Montana, Region 8, Chairman

### Regional Vice Chairmen

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Edward J. Osowiecki, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Region 2 Vice Chairman
Jay E. Harville, Kingsport, Tennessee, Region 3 Vice Chairman
Howard Lee Marks, Beaumont, Texas, Region 4 Vice Chairman
Kenneth A. Bonde, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Region 5 Vice Chairman
Frances Swensen, Junction City, Kansas, Region 6 Vice Chairman
Maloy R. Bills, Sandy, Utah, Region 7 Vice Chairman
Raymond (Barney) Rapp, Longview, Washington, Region 8 Vice Chairman

### Advisory Board

Mrs. Helen Adams Gardner, Indianapolis, Indiana, National President—American Legion Auxiliary
Mrs. Joseph Mardu, Newington, Connecticut, Le Chapeau—Eight and Forty

### General Members

*Region 1*

Matthew P. Salva, Enfield, Connecticut
Louis R. J. Malo, West Warwick, Rhode Island
Franklin R. Donley, Sr., Brunswick, Maine
Eugene J. Biagi, Sr., Carver, Massachusetts
Lester R. Perham, Milford, New Hampshire
Ray Greenwood, Montpelier, Vermont

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Howard L. Matty, New Hartford, New York
Clyde C. Ferguson, Dumfries, Virginia
Hank Berkowitz, Silver Spring, Maryland (DC)
Warren L. Dearstine, Mechanicsville, Maryland
Edward J. Osowiecki, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Lawrence Luterman, Longport, New Jersey
Owen C. Jones, Huntington, West Virginia

*Region 3*

Miss Josephine A. LoCicero, Holmes Beach, Florida
Cameron, L. King, Robards, Kentucky

Bill Sams, Columbia, South Carolina
Jay E. Harville, Kingsport, Tennessee
William H. Dent, Jr., Montgomery, Alabama
Robert G. Carter, Macon, Georgia
Sherman Lillard, Cherokee, North Carolina

*Region 4*

Ernest Gober, McGehee, Arkansas
Leno O. Easky, Ponca City, Oklahoma
Ignace J. Deshotel, Lake Charles, Louisiana
Howard Lee Marks, Beaumont, Texas
Scott J. Russum, Vicksburg, Mississippi

*Region 5*

Robert Maxwell, Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin (Illinois)
Donald L. Gruenbaum, Marysville, Ohio
S. William Brewer, Knightstown, Indiana
Kenneth A. Bonde, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Glenn H. Ainslie, Battle Creek, Michigan
William R. Ball, Hannibal, Missouri

*Region 6*

Ray A. Griffin, Aurora, Nebraska
Willis E. Danekas, Raymond, South Dakota
Frances Swensen, Junction City, Kansas
Ronald G. Ness, Pembina, North Dakota
Terry Kruse, Lone Tree, Iowa
Lloyd L. Grossnickle, Monticello, Minnesota

*Region 7*

Ray Martinez, Phoenix, Arizona
Elizabeth R. Wilson, Monterey Park, California
Dorothy M. Burdick, Boulder, Colorado
Louis Pardy, North Las Vegas, Nevada
Maloy R. Bills, Sandy, Utah
Daniel F. Sullivan, Honolulu, Hawaii
Dan B. Craig, Albuquerque, New Mexico

*Region 8*

William A. Macmillan, Helena, Montana
Robert D. Scott, Lebanon, Oregon
Raymond (Barney) Rapp, Longview, Washington
Dr. Jacob E. Daily, Casper, Wyoming
Joseph T. Craig, Ketchikan, Alaska
Hero Shiosaki, Blackfoot, Idaho

**Commission on Children & Youth Liaison Committee**

Robert W. Durand, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Chairman
Henry S. Bialoglowy, Litchfield, Connecticut
John K. Simons, Bridgeville, Delaware
Richard Billig, Bowie, Maryland (DC)
William S. Lombardo, Martinshohe, West Germany (France)

Schedule 1

TABLE NO. 2
EXPENDITURES FROM NATIONAL TEMPORARY FINANCIAL AID FUNDS TO DEPARTMENTS ACCORDING TO YEARS

| | 1926-35 | 1936-45 | 1946-55 | 1956-65 | 1966-75 | 1975-84 | Last 7 mos. 1984 | First 5 mos. 1985 | Grand Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alabama | $ 15,281.65 | $ 13,899.08 | $ 27,466.26 | $ 23,700.80 | $ 19,672.79 | $ 53,349.66 | $ 1,750.00 | $ 450.00 | $ 155,570.84 |
| Alaska | — | — | 627.56 | 1,000.00 | 950.00 | 900.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 3,477.56 |
| Arizona | 17,587.40 | 8,474.30 | 5,094.00 | 3,658.00 | 250.00 | 10,205.31 | 1,225.00 | 4,300.00 | 52,794.01 |
| Arkansas | 9,845.20 | 24,028.00 | 20,999.22 | 4,963.00 | 100.00 | 2,281.07 | 700.00 | 350.00 | 63,266.49 |
| California | 25,558.18 | 4,547.97 | 13,231.40 | 2,795.05 | 800.00 | 250.00 | 500.00 | — | 47,682.60 |
| Colorado | 26,956.23 | 14,664.88 | 17,360.78 | 5,257.33 | 770.00 | 375.00 | 250.00 | — | 95,634.22 |
| Connecticut | 100.00 | 1,694.00 | 350.00 | 90.00 | — | 450.00 | — | — | 2,744.00 |
| Delaware | 1,025.00 | 1,010.00 | 825.00 | 175.00 | 150.00 | 325.00 | — | — | 3,510.00 |
| D. of C. | 1,790.00 | 780.00 | 981.50 | 220.00 | — | — | 600.00 | — | 4,371.50 |
| Florida | 16,607.28 | 16,734.00 | 24,207.50 | 1,313.00 | — | 2,300.00 | — | — | 61,191.78 |
| Georgia | 14,839.50 | 55,054.57 | 51,449.42 | 34,596.00 | 4,015.00 | 600.00 | 500.00 | — | 161,053.49 |
| Hawaii | 450.00 | 420.00 | — | — | — | 900.00 | — | — | 1,770.00 |
| Idaho | 3,041.00 | 3,952.50 | 2,721.00 | 3,050.85 | 4,071.97 | 3,000.00 | — | — | 20,437.32 |
| Illinois | 11,943.25 | 18,277.54 | 3,211.53 | 1,132.00 | 1,078.11 | 6,022.75 | 1,250.00 | 1,200.00 | 44,115.18 |
| Indiana | 24,906.08 | 6,944.00 | 4,213.40 | 4,853.00 | 190.00 | 2,730.00 | — | — | 43,836.48 |
| Iowa | 15,833.58 | 1,659.50 | 407.00 | 190.00 | 773.45 | 2,505.00 | — | 650.00 | 22,018.53 |
| Kansas | 9,552.50 | 11,214.30 | 31,565.87 | 10,498.48 | 4,273.00 | 2,360.00 | 850.00 | 590.00 | 70,904.15 |
| Kentucky | 13,922.00 | 9,921.50 | 15,488.90 | 30,019.00 | 28,540.66 | 30,354.30 | 4,000.00 | 1,100.00 | 133,366.36 |
| Louisiana | 12,554.00 | 10,846.50 | 24,376.30 | 14,078.00 | 1,208.00 | 1,887.00 | — | 300.00 | 65,249.80 |
| Maine | 2,564.94 | 1,054.00 | 889.90 | 1,020.36 | — | 2,676.55 | — | — | 8,205.75 |
| Maryland | 3,862.00 | 2,025.00 | 2,430.57 | 960.00 | 358.00 | 2,925.00 | — | — | 12,560.57 |
| Massachusetts | 2,064.50 | 690.00 | 455.00 | — | — | 150.00 | — | — | 3,359.50 |
| Michigan | 12,709.48 | 11,185.85 | 20,653.85 | 12,627.39 | 9,719.46 | 5,041.60 | 425.00 | — | 72,362.63 |
| Minnesota | 6,516.00 | 2,094.77 | 14,908.19 | 8,414.60 | 2,327.23 | 7,226.00 | 1,150.00 | 620.00 | 43,256.79 |
| Mississippi | 16,509.00 | 23,784.63 | 30,843.16 | 32,411.00 | 37,582.00 | 74,645.99 | 1,550.00 | 1,200.00 | 218,325.76 |
| Missouri | 18,047.08 | 35,026.00 | 33,824.64 | 13,975.00 | 7,231.76 | 4,350.00 | 400.00 | — | 112,854.48 |
| Montana | 5,099.25 | 315.00 | 744.50 | 924.35 | 365.00 | 925.30 | — | 300.00 | 8,673.40 |
| Nebraska | 14,091.20 | 4,378.90 | 7,479.25 | 10,316.43 | 14,111.06 | 5,198.00 | — | — | 55,574.84 |
| Nevada | 390.00 | 195.00 | 566.00 | 200.00 | 1,978.00 | 3,644.00 | 950.00 | 700.00 | 8,623.00 |
| New Hampshire | 2,562.00 | 1,688.50 | 4,79. 50 | 150.00 | — | — | — | — | 9,192.00 |
| New Jersey | 7,163.68 | 1,831.85 | 1,701.00 | 245.00 | 600.00 | 2,614.00 | 1,264.00 | — | 15,419.53 |
| New Mexico | 11,473.72 | 8,600.58 | 25,665.74 | 27,433.00 | 19,145.00 | 35,203.99 | 1,375.00 | 1,950.00 | 130,847.03 |
| New York | 4,547.97 | 3,339.57 | 3,411.00 | 1,392.00 | 300.00 | 750.00 | — | — | 13,740.54 |
| North Carolina | 12,230.50 | 34,367.00 | 52,708.00 | 28,311.60 | 3,705.00 | 4,485.00 | — | 550.00 | 136,357.10 |
| North Dakota | 13,204.17 | 12,813.08 | 8,138.21 | 3,650.00 | 2,083.01 | 3,488.31 | 200.00 | — | 43,576.98 |
| Ohio | 16,720.00 | 7,710.43 | 1,360.50 | 1,755.75 | 1,090.00 | 9,304.57 | 319.32 | 300.00 | 40,660.57 |
| Oklahoma | 24,955.05 | 15,503.00 | 26,118.77 | 39,287.70 | 46,835.00 | 30,263.50 | 3,650.00 | 7,007.53 | 193,620.55 |
| Oregon | 855.00 | 395.50 | 6,190.65 | 7,559.50 | 5,178.00 | 19,417.95 | 500.00 | 300.00 | 30,396.60 |
| Panama | 185.00 | 570.00 | 234.00 | 300.00 | — | — | — | 600.00 | 1,809.00 |
| Pennsylvania | 19,239.41 | 3,608.00 | 434.00 | 217.00 | 435.00 | 12,519.85 | 3,675.00 | 2,575.00 | 42,703.26 |
| Puerto Rico | 5,671.00 | 11,386.00 | 27,210.00 | 30,544.00 | 49,304.50 | 5,895.00 | 900.00 | 1,080.00 | 131,990.50 |
| Rhode Island | 1,277.00 | 285.00 | 1,641.00 | — | 760.00 | — | — | — | 3,963.00 |
| South Carolina | 29,589.20 | 38,863.85 | 16,780.54 | 9,912.80 | 2,936.07 | 2,682.93 | — | — | 100,765.39 |
| South Dakota | 19,555.89 | 22,674.38 | 13,405.05 | 2,957.00 | — | 425.00 | — | 300.00 | 59,517.32 |
| Tennessee | 12,211.52 | 18,933.25 | 29,403.20 | 25,210.00 | 5,604.50 | 12,874.80 | 200.00 | 500.00 | 104,937.27 |
| Texas | 11,239.50 | 24,134.00 | 31,879.35 | 15,513.08 | 12,856.00 | 9,578.50 | 1,350.00 | 2,280.00 | 108,830.43 |
| Utah | 3,435.00 | 7,690.48 | 3,248.00 | — | — | — | 700.00 | — | 15,073.48 |
| Vermont | 1,559.50 | 265.00 | 9,026.50 | 225.00 | — | — | — | — | 11,076.00 |
| Virginia | 19,219.86 | 26,090.45 | 26,449.78 | 1,588.00 | 9,768.00 | 10,214.00 | 800.00 | 300.00 | 94,430.09 |
| Washington | 3,033.00 | 345.00 | 427.50 | — | — | 225.00 | — | — | 4,030.50 |
| West Virginia | 20,276.98 | 7,353.00 | 5,801.00 | 5,594.94 | 650.00 | 2,960.00 | 250.00 | — | 42,885.92 |
| Wisconsin | 9,561.68 | 6,320.30 | 2,542.00 | 5,525.25 | 2,116.00 | 5,809.00 | 600.00 | 303.00 | 32,777.23 |
| Wyoming | 6,885.00 | 1,295.00 | 793.00 | 1,200.00 | — | 1,350.00 | — | — | 11,523.00 |
| Other Departments | 200.00 | 360.00 | 173.50 | — | — | — | — | — | 733.50 |
| Total | $580,077.34[1] | $541,495.61 | $658,906.47 | $431,030.26 | $302,481.57 | $397,468.93[2] | $31,583.32 | $30,105.53 | $2,975,149.03 |

[1]Includes $19,499.21 for the year 1926 — Department totals not available

[2]Includes 1st 5 months of 1985

TABLE NO. 3.—COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF WW II, KOREAN, VIETNAM AND WORLD WAR I VETERANS RECEIVING AID FROM NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH DIVISION

| | WW II children | | Korean children | | Vietnam children | | WW I children | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| June 1, 1984 to May 31, 1985 | 57 | 9.27 | 114 | 18.53 | 444 | 72.16 | 0 | .00 |
| June 1, 1983 to May 31, 1984 | 56 | 8.8 | 125 | 19.60 | 457 | 71.60 | 0 | .00 |
| June 1, 1982 to May 31, 1983 | 40 | 5.9 | 158 | 23.30 | 480 | 70.80 | 0 | .00 |
| June 1, 1981 to May 31, 1982 | 51 | 14.36 | 80 | 22.54 | 224 | 63.10 | 0 | .00 |
| June 1, 1980 to May 31, 1981 | 68 | 14.74 | 125 | 28.34 | 251 | 56.92 | 0 | .00 |
| June 1, 1979 to May 31, 1980 | 94 | 21.81 | 58 | 13.46 | 279 | 64.73 | 0 | .00 |
| June 1, 1978 to May 31, 1979 | 111 | 27.54 | 101 | 25.06 | 191 | 47.40 | 0 | .00 |
| June 1, 1977 to May 31, 1978 | 196 | 30.33 | 215 | 32.92 | 240 | 36.75 | 0 | .00 |
| June 1, 1976 to May 31, 1977 | 216 | 38.30 | 140 | 24.82 | 208 | 36.88 | 0 | .00 |
| June 1, 1975 to May 31, 1976 | 171 | 29.70 | 233 | 39.09 | 186 | 31.21 | 3 | .57 |
| June 1, 1974 to May 31, 1975 | 189 | 36.00 | 208 | 39.62 | 218 | 41.52 | 0 | .00 |
| June 1, 1973 to May 31, 1974 | 248 | 36.69 | 334 | 49.41 | 94 | 13.90 | 0 | .00 |
| June 1, 1972 to May 31, 1973 | 204 | 43.59 | 150 | 32.05 | 114 | 24.36 | 1 | .13 |
| June 1, 1971 to May 31, 1972 | 360 | 46.15 | 309 | 39.62 | 110 | 14.10 | 0 | .00 |
| June 1, 1969 to May 31, 1970 | 749 | 53.32 | 417 | 39.00 | 82 | 7.68 | 4 | .34 |
| June 1, 1968 to May 31, 1969 | 706 | 61.49 | 414 | 33.99 | 51 | 4.18 | 3 | .27 |
| June 1, 1967 to May 31, 1968 | 875 | 61.66 | 390 | 34.06 | 46 | 4.01 | 4 | .29 |
| June 1, 1966 to May 31, 1967 | 1,024 | 64.02 | 463 | 33.86 | 25 | 1.83 | 0 | .00 |
| June 1, 1965 to May 31, 1966 | 1,147 | 72.86 | 384 | 27.06 | 11 | .08 | 1 | .07 |
| June 1, 1964 to May 31, 1965 | 1,091 | 82.11 | 249 | 17.82 | | | 2 | .15 |
| June 1, 1963 to May 31, 1964 | 1,099 | 79.86 | 273 | 19.99 | | | 1 | .07 |
| June 1, 1962 to May 31, 1963 | 1,077 | 78.73 | 296 | 21.20 | | | 8 | .61 |
| June 1, 1961 to May 31, 1962 | 1,329 | 82.47 | 221 | 16.92 | | | 10 | .62 |
| June 1, 1960 to May 31, 1961 | 1,716 | 83.59 | 251 | 15.79 | | | 25 | .74 |
| June 1, 1959 to May 31, 1960 | 2,536 | 84.99 | 288 | 14.27 | | | 53 | 1.78 |
| June 1, 1958 to May 31, 1959 | 1,589 | 85.16 | 389 | 13.06 | | | 47 | 2.47 |
| June 1, 1957 to May 31, 1958 | 2,050 | 86.78 | 195 | 10.65 | | | 39 | 1.79 |
| June 1, 1956 to May 31, 1957 | 1,713 | 89.32 | 206 | 8.98 | | | 47 | 2.47 |
| June 1, 1955 to May 31, 1956 | 1,579 | 90.06 | 142 | 7.47 | | | 118 | 6.40 |
| June 1, 1954 to May 31, 1955 | 2,098 | 85.68 | 146 | 7.92 | | | 250 | 10.05 |
| May 1, 1953 to May 31, 1954 | 2,519 | 84.32 | 140 | 5.63 | | | 238 | 8.22 |
| May 1, 1952 to May 31, 1953 | 2,050 | 87.12 | 135 | 4.66 | | | 341 | 14.03 |
| May 1, 1951 to April 30, 1952 | 1,481 | 84.36 | 39 | 1.61 | | | 290 | 16.33 |
| May 1, 1950 to April 30, 1951 | 1,506 | 83.39 | 5 | .28 | | | 265 | 14.96 |
| July 1, 1949 to April 30, 1950 | 1,584 | 85.04 | | | | | 435 | 21.55 |
| July 1, 1948 to June 30, 1949 | 1,796 | 78.45 | | | | | 665 | 27.02 |
| July 1, 1947 to June 30, 1948 | 1,218 | 72.98 | | | | | 1,090 | 47.23 |
| July 1, 1946 to June 30, 1947 | 785 | 52.77 | | | | | 1,006 | 56.17 |
| Prior to July 1, 1946 | 590 | 43.83 | | | | | | |

TABLE NO. 4.—*National Eight and Forty Fund for Mothers of Children of Veterans of World War II, Korean and Vietnam Wars and World War I*

| | |
|---|---|
| Allocated In: | |
| 1943 | $1,000.00 |
| 1946 | 500.00 |
| 1948 | 1,500.00 |
| 1949 | 1,500.00 |
| 1949 for 1950 | 500.00 |
| 1950 for 1951 | 2,000.00 |
| 1951 for 1952 | 2,000.00 |
| 1952 for 1953 | 3,000.00 |
| 1953 for 1954 | 500.00 |
| 1954 for 1955 | 500.00 |
| 1955 for 1956 | 500.00 |
| 1956 for 1957 | 750.00 |
| No allocations in 1957 for 1958 | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Allocated in: | |
| 1958 for 1959 | 1,000.00 |
| 1959 for 1960 | 1,000.00 |
| 1960 for 1961 | 1,000.00 |
| No allocations in 1961 for 1962 | |
| No allocations in 1962 for 1963 | |
| No allocations in 1963 for 1964 | |
| Allocated in: | |
| 1964 for 1965 | 250.00 |
| 1965 for 1966 | 250.00 |
| 1966 for 1967 | 250.00 |
| 1967 for 1968 | 250.00 |
| 1968 for 1969 | 100.00 |
| Total | 18,350.00 |
| Grand total expended from 1944 to May 31, 1985 | 17,825.07 |
| Balance unexpended June 1, 1985 | 524.93 |

TABLE No. 5.—*Printed Material Furnished Upon Request During Period June 1, 1984 through May 31, 1985*

| | |
|---|---|
| America's Children and The Legion | 5,292 |
| Annual Children & Youth Program Piece | 35,941 |
| April Is Children & Youth Month | 23,360 |
| American Legion Child Welfare Foundation | 34,930 |
| Blow Your Own Horn by Reporting | 17,339 |
| Children & Youth Guide | 8,336 |
| Children & Youth on the Rocks | 45,171 |
| Decades of Service | 27,960 |
| ETC Brochure | 27,811 |
| Fingerprint Cards | 42,360 |
| Make Halloween a Safe and Fun Night | 26,013 |
| Missing Children | 82,164 |
| Now What? | 4,333 |
| Parent's Guide to Marijuana | 65,682 |
| Special Olympics Program Guide | 31,136 |
| Special Post Activity Award | 20,481 |
| TFA Applications | 775 |
| TFA Brochures | 30,081 |
| To Prevent Drug Abuse | 50,545 |
| Warning Signs—Suicide Prevention | 68,663 |
| Citations: | |
| Annual Children & Youth Citations | 3,851 |
| Certificate of Meritorious Service | 91 |
| National Achievement Award | 86 |
| News Release for Annual Children & Youth Citation | 2,980 |
| News Release for Certificate of Meritorious Service | 106 |
| News Release for Special Children & Youth Citation | 612 |
| Special Children & Youth Citations | 654 |
| Star Certificate of Excellence | 27 |
| Star Certificate of Participation | 109 |
| Reporting: | |
| Tally Sheet | 1,442 |
| Post Report Form | 4,100 |
| Unit Report Form | 10,406 |
| We Want a Report from Your Unit or Salon | 7,924 |
| Total | 701,061 |

# AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION, INC.

WALTON D. GRIFFIN, Tennessee, *President*

PAUL R. FRINSTHAL, Illinois, *Executive Secretary*

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation continues to be an advocate for the children and youth of this country. As a separate corporation from The American Legion, the Foundation, since its incorporation in 1954, has made grants totaling over 1.6 million dollars. These grants have been made to nonprofit, youth-oriented agencies and organizations across this nation. To qualify for such grants, projects must fall into one of the following categories:

(1) To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge about new and innovative organizations and/or their programs designed to benefit youth; and

(2) To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge already possessed by well-established organizations, to the end that such imformation can be more adequately used by society.

Since its beginning 31 years ago, the Foundation has received over 1.3 million dollars in contributions, primarily from members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and the Eight and Forty. The Foundation has always been of the opinion that it is better to prevent many of the physical and social ills confronting our nation's youth than to try to correct the problem after it has already occurred. The Child Welfare Foundation became an official part of The American Legion's Children & Youth program in 1956.

### 1985–86 Grants

On May 5, 1985, the Foundation's Board of Directors met in Indianapolis, Indiana, to consider 29 applications for grants which totalled over $752,729.20.

These grant requests were made from all parts of the country, and they represented many excellent programs to benefit the children and youth of this country. During this meeting, grants totaling $258,550 were awarded to 14 voluntary, nonprofit organizations who are actively engaged in helping our youngest generation. Without the continued support of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, as well as the Eight and Forty, such assistance would not be possible. The following grants were awarded for the 1985–86 granting year:

The American Red Cross, Utica Chapter, of Utica, New York, was granted $25,000 for the project, "Swimmy the Clown's ABCs of Water Safety, An Activity Book." This informative booklet is designed to stimulate interest in water safety and will be easily understood by children between the ages of four and eight. 50,000 copies will be printed for distribution to the 479 nationwide chapters of the Red Cross.

The Aplastic Anemia Foundation of America, Inc., located in Baltimore, Maryland, received $22,500 for the project, "Aplastic Anemia: What Is It?" The AAFA will print audio-visual materials on this little-known disease to increase public awareness about the need for research into the causes and prevention of aplastic anemia. The AAFA also will offer services to those patients and family members who have been affiliated with the organization and will build a strong base of support from volunteers and donors.

The Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation of Collinsville, Connecticut, received $16,500 for a project entitled, "Outreach II." This grant will be used to print a "Directory of Families and Professionals" and a bimonthly newsletter entitled "Reaching Out." The grant will also fund the installation of a toll-free "800" number to assure accessibility for all interested persons with the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation.

The Epilepsy Foundation of America of Landover, Maryland, received $18,500 for their "School Alert: Reaching Children in the Classroom." Packets to inform teachers and other school personnel about the problems epilepsy and its seizures can cause will be mailed to over 4,000 schools in eight states.

Find Me, Inc., of LaGrange, Georgia, was awarded $1,500 for the "Publication of Tenth Printing of ACTION," a booklet which includes a compilation of agencies working in the areas of missing persons, preventative measures concerning abductions, and other helpful information on these subjects.

The Foundation for Craniofacial Deformities of Dallas, Texas, was granted $28,300 for the project, "Parent Education Brochures and Video Tapes for Families with Children with Clefts and Down's Syndrome." A brochure and video tape, one for each of these two subjects, will be prepared for parents of children with certain facial deformities.

The Immune Deficiency Foundation of Columbia, Maryland, was granted $5,500 for the project, "Public and Professional Education: Phase II." These monies will fund the reprinting of 10,000 copies of "A Guide for Nurses," the updating and printing of 5,000 copies of a "Reading List on Immunology" for families and lay audiences, and the preparation and mailing of two IDF newsletters.

The Infant Hearing Assessment Foundation of Concord, California, received $18,400 for the project, "Your Baby's Hearing." This grant will cover the cost of producing an IHAF newsletter each month for one year and will also fund the revision and printing of two informational "Your Baby's Hearing" brochures for parents.

The Leukemia Society of America, Inc., of New York, New York, was awarded $35,000 for their "Teen Diary and Coloring Books for Patients with Leukemia and Related Diseases." 10,000 teen diaries and 25,000 coloring books will be developed and distributed to provide inforamtion about the disease, understandable information about treatment, and to provide an outlet for constructive airing of emotional feelings about being afflicted with a potentially devastating disease.

The National Hemophilia Foundation of New York, New York, received $27,100 for their "Hemophilia Information Project for Parents and Youth." 10,000 copies of two brochures entitled, "Your Child and Hemophilia" and "The Inheritance of Hemophilia" will be printed and distributed throughout the United States.

The National Reye's Syndrome Foundation of Bryan, Ohio, received $21,000 for their "Audio-Visual Health Professional and Lay Teaching Program." A slide-tape program funded by the Foundation in 1983 will be revised and distributed nationally. 20,000 announcement brochures will also be sent out to health professionals and the lay public.

The North American Council on Adoptable Children of Washington, DC, was awarded $16,350 for their project, "Adoption of Children." These monies will offset the cost of developing and printing materials advertising availability of parent preparation video tapes and the development of National Adoption Week materials.

The Orton Dyslexia Society of Baltimore, Maryland, received $20,000 for their "National Education Outreach Program." $15,000 of this will be used to establish an "800" telephone number where interested persons can call to learn more about dyslexia. The remaining 45,000 will be used to print hand-out materials which will describe the affliction.

Parents Anonymous of Delaware, Inc., of Wilmington, Delaware, received $2,900 for the project, "All in My Family." A booklet by the same name will be developed, dealing with adolescent sexual abuse. Copies of this booklet will be distributed to various organizations across the country, eventually reaching 500 communities.

### Officers

Officers of the Board are Walton D. Griffin, Tennessee, President; U.S. "Udie" Grant, Kansas, Vice President; Eugene V. Lindquist, Minnesota, Secretary; and W. D. Harrell, Georgia, Treasurer. Members of the corporation include George Boucek, Illinois; James P. Holley, Texas; W. H. Redman, Oklahoma; L. Eldon James, Virginia; and C. B. Knight, Louisiana.

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary Liaison Committee include Mrs. Alan M. Schanel, Chairman; Mrs. Paul Brown, Vice Chairman; and Mrs. Robert Bohn, Member.

Appointed personnel consists of Paul R. Frinsthal, Executive Secretary; and Webber LaGrange, Assistant Treasurer.

The Child Welfare Foundation is aware that it survives on contributions from thoughtful and generous people. We have responded to that trust with sound financial practices and granting policies. For the 1985–86 program year, we have redoubled our efforts to create more interest in our Foundation by members and affiliates. Through increased income, we can better serve the youth of America.

## EXHIBIT A.—AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION, INC.—STATEMENT OF INCOME, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

| | Year ended December 31 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1984 | | 1983 | |
| | Restricted funds | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Unrestricted funds |
| Income | | | | |
| Contributions and bequests | | | | |
| Restricted | | | | |
| Eight and Forty Research Fund | $9,910 | | $10,854 | |
| Unrestricted | | | | |
| Memorial contributions | | $14,100 | | $13,252 |
| American Legion Auxiliary Contribution | | 10,723 | | 10,000 |
| Bequests | | 1,748 | | 1,764 |
| Other contribution | | 36,428 | | 28,505 |
| Total contributions and bequests | | 62,999 | | 53,521 |
| Investment income | | 42,192 | | 64,755 |
| Miscellaneous | | 47 | | 147 |
| Total income | 9,910 | 105,238 | 10,854 | 118,423 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Grants awarded | | 112,465 | | 192,373 |
| Grants cancelled | | | | (45,000) |
| Net grants awarded | | 112,465 | | 147,373 |
| Other expenses | | | | |
| Trustee's fees | | 2,785 | | 2,523 |
| Auditing and tax service | | 1,385 | | 1,290 |
| Printing, meeting expenses, and sundry | | 4,562 | | 851 |
| Total expenses | | 121,197 | | 152,037 |
| Excess income (expenses) | 9,910 | (15,959) | 10,854 | (33,614) |
| Fund balance, beginning of year | 22,780 | 377,984 | 11,926 | 411,598 |
| Fund balance, end of year | 32,690 | 362,025 | 22,780 | 377,984 |

See accompanying note to financial statements.

## EXHIBIT B.—AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION, INC.—BALANCE SHEET

| | December 31 | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1984 | 1983 |
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash | | |
| Checking account | $4,522 | $8,007 |
| Trust account | 2,500 | 1,130 |
| | 7,022 | 9,137 |
| Investments—(market value $449,162 and $434,328) | | |
| | 179,163 | 179,163 |
| U.S. Treasury notes | 39,812 | 109,978 |
| U.S. Government Agency obligations | 113,290 | 45,955 |
| Money market funds | 80,522 | 63,341 |
| Common stocks | 412,787 | 398,437 |
| Accrued interest on investments | 5,820 | 11,479 |
| Mineral rights deeds | 36 | 36 |

## EXHIBIT B.—AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION, INC.—BALANCE SHEET—Continued

| | December 31 | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1984 | 1983 |
| | 425,665 | 419,089 |
| LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES | | |
| Grants payable | 30,950 | 18,325 |
| Fund balances: | | |
| Restricted—Eight and Forty Research Fund | 32,690 | 22,780 |
| Unrestricted | 362,025 | 377,984 |
| | 394,715 | 400,764 |
| | 425,665 | 419,089 |

Note 1.—Summary of significant accounting policies:

Organization and General.—The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc. was incorporated in 1954 for the purposes of making grants to qualified recipients for projects or programs related to improving the general welfare of children.

Federal Income Tax.—The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that the Foundation is exempt from the payment of federal income tax under the provisions of Section 501 of the 1954 Internal Revenue Code as a corporation organized and operated for charitable purposes.

Investments.—Investments of the Foundation are stated at cost, if purchased, or at market value at date of receipt, if acquired by gift.

Grants.—Grants awarded to qualified recipients are expensed in the year they are approved by the Board of Directors.

Eight and Forty Research Fund.—Contributions received for the Eight and Forty Research Fund are restricted for grants related to cystic fibrosis or other upper respiratory diseases and are recognized as income only to the extent that expenditures for the restricted purpose are incurred. Contributions received in excess of expenses are credited directly to the Eight and Forty Research Fund balance.

# CONVENTION COMMISSION

WENDELL G. WILLIAMS, Wisconsin, *Chairman*

ROBERT R. RADKE, Ohio, *Director*

Salt Lake City, host city for the 1984 national convention of The American Legion reported they were extremely pleased with the results of the convention. American Legion delegates and other guests responded very favorably to the city and indicated they would be happy to return for another convention soon. It was the first time the convention was held in Salt Lake City.

### New Convention Plan

The Convention Requirements Booklet which establishes the guidelines for operational procedures for convention corporations, national headquarters and host cities is in the process of being updated. Included in the update is the plan for geographical selection of convention sites starting with 1989. The country will be divided into three sections; Eastern Area, Central Area and Western Area. The Convention Commission has recommended to the National Executive Committee to rotate convention sites from the Eastern Area one year, to the Central Area the next year and then to the Western Area the following year. The convention site would then move back into the Central Area and then back to the Eastern Area.

This new site selection plan accomplishes several things. It enables the Convention Commission to make selections on a more impartial basis and will result in significant savings for Legionnaires over the years by reducing travel costs and lodging costs resulting in an increase in attendance at future conventions. The national headquarters will realize substantial reductions in staff travel costs and shipping costs.

At one time there were only several cities capable of handling The American Legion convention. Today there are some thirty-five to forty cities throughout the United States that have the facilities to host a national convention. The bidding by these cities becomes extremely competitive and proves to be a strong ally to the Legion when it comes time to negotiate the various services needed to support a convention.

### Five Year Tentative Awards

The National Executive Committee approved a recommendation by the Convention Commission to make tentative awards to bidding convention cities five years in advance. This five year program is necessary to insure The American Legion being able to select cities that are being considered by other organizations for the same dates. Potential host cities are able to offer more attrative inducements by blocking space that far in advance. When a bid is received by the Convention Commission a site inspection team made up of members of the Convention Commission and the Convention Director visit the city and make a full written report to the entire Convention Commission at the May meetings. Each city is invited to make a proposal in person to the Convention Commission. A final recommendation is then made by the Commission to the National Executive Committee to announce a tentative award of a convention to a qualified city.

Tentative awards for the next five years were recommended by the Convention Commission and approved by the National Executive Committee. They are:

August 29 through September 4, 1986—Cincinnati, OH.
August 21—August 27, 1987—San Antonio TX.
September 2 through September 7, 1988—Minneapolis, MN.
1989 (Dates negotiable)—Baltimore, MD.
1990 (Dates negotiable)—Indianapolis, IN.

Other cities with bids for the national convention include Phoenix, Arizona; Portland, Oregon; Louisville, Kentucky; Anahiem, California; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Detroit, Michigan; and Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Revised Contest Rules**

In 1984 the Contest Committee was dissolved and a new Contest Advisory Committee was formed. This new Advisory Committee reviews the program of national contests and makes recommendations to the Convention Commission.

Changes recommended by the Contest Advisory Committee were to reduce the scope of the contests to include only the Junior and Senior Color Guards, the Junior and Senior Drill Teams and the Senior Bands. The Color Guards and Drill Teams will compete as part of the convention parade while the Senior Bands will compete in a concert setting. All other contests were eliminated. The current contest rules were revised to accommodate the new contest program. The reason for the decisions were lack of interest on the part of previous participants and economics. It just became too expensive to finance a Drum Corps and send them to the national convention. The Convention Commission has taken the position that if there is a continued lack of interest in the reduced contest program at the 1985 convention, future contest activity will be ended.

## DISTINGUISHED GUEST COMMITTEE

MAURICE E. DRUHL, Oregon, *Chairman*

The Distinguished Guest Committee operates under the umbrella of the Convention Commission and is directed to assume the responsibility of coordinating the activities of those persons invited to attend the national convention as distinguished guests.

The committee arranges transportation requirements for their travel and departure and also provides such services to the various events which the guest wishes to attend.

Proper credentials, agendas, itineraries and other necessary details are all part of this operation and special requests are honored, when possible.

The Distinguished Guest Committee normally operates from the Legion's headquarters hotel. The facility is the nerve center for all of the committee's operations and is also maintain as a convenience and central locator for all of the distinguished guests.

# ECONOMIC COMMISSION

FRANK KELLY, Georgia, *Chairman*

JAMES G. BOURIE, Connecticut, *Director*

The following report covers the programs, activities and accomplishments of the Economic Commission, its affiliated Committees, and the staff for the period from July 1, 1984 and ending June 30, 1985.

A total of thirty-one resolutions pertaining to the Economic program has been assigned or referred to the Economic Commission since our last annual report. An analysis of these resolutions as to source and type is below:

Twenty-two resolutions approved from the 1984 National Convention;

Two resolutions approved from the National Executive Committee meeting, October 10–11, 1984;

Seven resolutions referred from the 1984 National Convention, including two resolutions referred, after the 1984 National Convention, to the Economics Commission from other Commissions.

Action on each resolution, as of June 1985, is set forth below, commencing with those approved by the 1984 National Convention and National Executive Committee meetings, followed by the resolutions referred by the National VA & Rehabilitation and National Security Commissions.

### Approved 1984 National Convention Resolutions

*Resolution No. 12.*—Recommends that the U.S. Department of Labor, through its Office of Federal Contract Compliance and the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training, hold nationwide workshops to inform both contractors and veterans of their respective obligations and entitlements under section 2012 of title 38, United States Code.

In a letter dated November 13, 1984, Donald Shasteen, then Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training, agreed that the resolution's proposal of workshops has merit and the Department would pursue it.

*Resolution No. 27.*—Asks that each department of The American Legion seek legislation in their respective legislatures to promote veterans in small business.

James Sanders, Administrator, United States Small Business Administration (SBA), in a letter dated October 17, 1984, agreed with the thrust of the resolution and said it would greatly strengthen the efforts of the SBA to help veterans succeed in business.

*Resolution No. 90.*—Seeks legislation that would require local veterans employment representatives (LVERs) in the State Employment Security Agencies to be veterans.

The Legislative Division has been advised of the language needed for such legislation. The acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training, in a letter of November 13, 1984, noted that a recent survey showed that, of 1,489 local veterans employment representatives (LVERs) authorized, 11.35 percent, or 169 full-time jobs, were held by nonveterans, and the survey could find no problem with commitment or service of the nonveterans in those jobs.

*Resolution No. 100.*—Seeks legislation to extend the Veterans Readjustment Appointments for at least three years.

PL 98-543, the "Veterans Benefits Improvement Act," effective October 24, 1984, extended the Veterans Readjustment Appointments (VRA) authority through September 30, 1986; raised the entry grade level maximum from GS/WG-7 to GS/WG-9; provided limited appeal rights during the first year of appointment; and provided for annual, rather than semi-annual, reports to Congress.

A bill has been introduced in the 99th Congress for additional expansion. The Director for Economics testified in favor of HR 1408 on March 18, 1985, befre a subcommittee of the Committee on Veterans Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives.

*Resolution No. 140.*—Supports the home loan program for veterans in the Veterans Administration and opposes any attempt to remove it from the VA.

The American Legion testified on the VA home loan program before the Committees on Veterans Affairs of the United States Senate and of the House, and also before subcommittees of these Committees. The testimony cited the mandates of this resolution and made specific recommendations for the continuance of the VA home loan program.

*Rsolution No. 168.*—Seeks to continue, for at least three additional years, the Targeted Job Tax Credit program.

The Targeted Job Tax Credit program was extended by Congress through December 31, 1985. The Director for Economics testified March 12, 1985 before a subcommittee of the Committee on Ways and Means of the U.S. House of Representatives on HR 983, which would extend this program for an additional five years.

*Resolution No. 216.*—Asks for full funding for the office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training.

According to present indications, this office will be fully funded except for a cut in travel funds. The Director for Economics testified May 30, 1985, before a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations. The testimony included a request for an increase in travel funds and opposed a pending closing of regional offices.

*Resolution No. 256.*—Asks that the U.S. Office of Personnel Management fully support and promote the use of the special hiring program, the Veterans Readjustment Appointments (VRA), by all federal agencies.

A letter dated November 23, 1984, from Terry Culler, Associate Director, Workforce Effectiveness and Development Group, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, cited the support of OPM in the extension of VRA by Congress in PL 98-534 (see Res. No. 100), as well as letters and memoranda to agencies; presentations at meetings of veterans organizations, training of Affirmative Employment Program staff; and technical assistance to agencies as indicative of that agency's support of VRA.

*Resolution No. 257.*—Seeks full support and promotion by the U.S. Office of Personnal Management of the special hiring authority for veterans with 30 precent service-connected disability.

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management, in a letter of November 23, 1984, cited their continuing program of letters and memoranda to agencies, training programs, and requirement that each federal agency have a Disabled Veterans Affirmative Action Program. As proof of use of the program, they point out that in 1982, there were 1,648 appointments under this authority of a total of 3,369 veterans with 30 percent or more disability hired, for a percentage of .489; in FY 1983 60.4 percent of the 4,206 appointments of 30 percent veterans, or 2,542, were under this authority; while in the first half of FY 84 1,438 appointments, out of 2,264, or 63.5 percent, were special appointments.

*Resolution No. 273.*—Seeks support of a strong employment Service to be responsive to the employment needs of veterans.

The Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training, in a letter of November 13, 1984, fully agreed with the intent of this resolution. In testimony in February 1985 before the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs, the Legion testified in support of such a system, and opposed proposed "devolving" of employment services to the individual states. On May 30, 1985, in testimony before a subcommittee of the United States Senate on Appropriations, the Director for Economics supported full funding for the Employment Service.

*Resolution No. 279.*—Seeks to extend and enlarge the Emergency Veterans Job Training Program.

The Emergency Veterans Job Training Program was extended by PL 98-534 through September 1985. The Director for Economics testified in September 1984, March 1985, and in May 1985 before various Congressional subcommittees on this mandate.

*Resolution No. 305.*—Opposes contracting out of those maintenance and security jobs reserved by law to veterans preference eligibles.

Efforts to stop such contracting out of these jobs by legislative action were successful in the U.S. House of Representatives, but failed in the Senate, but they did focus attention on the problem. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management in January 1985 published regulations intended to help employees displaced by contracting out to get jobs elsewhere.

*Resolution No. 334.*—Seeks to have the positions of Regional Directors of Veterans Employment and Training, now established by administrative action, established by legislation.

October 3, 1984, a memorandum and draft bill were sent to the Legislative Division. In a letter of November 13, 1984, the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Employment and Training said such legislation is unnecessary as these positions are regarded as essential to operations and there are no plans to eliminate them. In testimony before a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the Director for Economics cited this resolution in commenting on published reports that the Department of Labor planned to reduce or eliminate Regional offices.

*Resolution No. 417.*—Seeks legislation to allow determination of outstationing of Disabled Veterans Outreach Program staff to be made by the State Job Service on the basis of need established by the State Director for Veterans Employment and Training Service.

A memorandum with the appropriate language for such legislation was sent to the Legislative division October 4, 1984. The Department of Labor, in a letter of November 13, 1984, from the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training, said there was no need for such legislation. In testimony on May 30, 1985 before a subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Director pointed out the need for outstationing DVOP staff and included this resolution.

*Resolution No. 430.*—Urges promotion of the "Jobs for Veterans" program of post activity on employment matters, including representation on local committees and councils engaged in promoting employment.

This is extensively promoted through the *Economic Nuggets*, by department employment chairmen, and at various Legion meetings.

*Resolution No. 432.*—Seeks to open all federally funded employment and training programs to veterans of all eras.

The Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training, in a letter dated November 13, 1984, agreed with the substance of the resolution, pointing out that only in Title IV-C of the Job Training Partnership Act and in the Emergency Veterans Job Training Program are there restrictions on dates of military service. This resolution was cited in testimony in March 1985 before a subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, and in May 1985 before a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

*Resolution No. 434.*—Urges full 'unding and staffing of the Veterans Affairs Office in the Small Business Administration.

This office continues to be funded and operating. In February 1985, the Legion testified before the Committees on Veterans Affairs of both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate. The statement pointed out the value to veterans of the SBA's programs, and requested adequate funding.

*Resolution No. 435.*—Asks for full enforcement by the appropriate offices in the U.S. Department of Labor of the law's provision that federal contractors must take affirmative action to hire and promote eligible veterans.

In a letter of November 13, 1984, the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training assured the Legion that that office was working on enforcement of this provision. At the meeting of the Economic Commission during the 1985 Washington Conference, Mr. Shasteen reported on such a project which will facilitate notification of the Job Service in each state of new contracts awarded to companies in their state. The Job Service will then remind the contractor of this requirement and outline how the Job Service can facilitate compliance.

*Resolution No. 440.*—Expresses strong support for veterans preference in federal employment as provided by law.

In a letter of October 11, 1984, the Office of Personnel Management expressed equally strong support for veterans preference in federal employment and pointed out the various things done over the previous year to promote it. The Economic Commission stands ready to support this preference and oppose any weakening of it.

*Resolution No. 592.*—Seeks to have preference for veterans built into a new system of referral after testing that is being introduced into the State Job Services.

The Department of Labor's office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training has assured the Legion that preference for veterans will be built into the "Validity Generalization" system when it is fully introduced into the State Job Services after its use in demonstration projects. This resolution was attached to Legion testimony submitted May 30, 1985 before a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

*Resolution No. 593.*—Seeks legislation to make the Legion's employer award program's "Employ the Older Worker Week," the second full week in March, a National Week, to be proclaimed by the President.

Such a week was proclaimed by the President for 1985.

*Resolution No. 594.*—Urges support of the U.S. Savings Bonds Program.

Through the cooperation of the U.S. Treasury Department, in January 1985 each post commander was sent a packet on how to use promotion of U.S. Savings Bonds in their post programs, accompanied by a letter from the Director for Economics. The program is also promoted through an annual article in the Advance.

**Approved National Executive Committee Resolutions**

*Resolution No. 25—NEC, October 1984.*—Seeks to change the regulations establishing the assignments of local veterans employment representatives.

In a letter of November 19, 1984 from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training, he explained why his office was opposed to the proposed changes and did not intend to make any changes.

*Resolution No. 26.*—Asks for legislation to provide tax and other incentives for employers of dislocated older veterans.

A bill was introduced in the Senate January 1985 to provide tax and other incentives for employing older workers, although it does not specifically pertain to veterans. In testimony in March 1985 before subcommittees of the House Committee on Ways and Means and of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, this resolution was cited in asking for ways to help older veterans be placed in retraining or employment.

**Referred 1984 Convention Resolutions**

*Resolution No. 13 (Oklahoma).*—Asks for legislation to allow activities financed by non-appropriated funds in the Department of Defense to participate in the Emergency Veterans Job Training Program (EVJTP).

As approved by the NEC at its May 1985 meeting, this referred resolution will be handled administratively in cooperation with the office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training.

*Resolution No. 14 (Oklahoma).* –Seeks to change the regulations establishing the assignments of local veterans employment representatives.

At the October 1984 meeting of the National Executive Committee, the recommendation of the Economic Commission that this resolution be approved as No. 25 was approved.

*Resolution No. 47 (Florida).*—Asks for reevaluation of debt collection by the VA home loan program to help veterans.

The National Executive Committee, at its May 1985 meeting, approved the recommendation of the Economic Commission that this resolution be rejected as the VA is continually evaluating its debt collection to make it equitable for veterans.

*Resolution No. 170 (Arkansas).*—Seeks to change the regulations establishing the assignments of local veterans employment representatives.

At the October meeting of the National Executive Committee, the recommendation of the Economic Commission that this resolution be approved as No. 25 was approved.

*Resolution No. 333 (Illinois).*—Asks for legislation to make it mandatory for states to utilize the present system of Job Service for job training and placement under the Job Training Partnership Act.

At the May 1985 meeting of the National Executive Committee this resolution was rejected as being unclear in language.

*Resolution No. 200 (Ohio).*—Asked for legislation to have the VA provide mortgage life, disability, and unemployment insurance for veterans with VA-guaranteed home loans.

This resolution was referred to the Economic Commission from the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, which had referred it for further study at the 1984 National Convention. At the May 1985 meeting of the National Executive Committee, the recommendation of the Economic Commission that this resolution be rejected as impossible to implement was approved.

*Resolution No. 213 (Illinois).*—Asks that present provisions for retirement of federal employees be continued.

The Economic Commission at its meeting May 8-9, 1985 recommended that this resolution, which had been referred to the Commission from the National Security Commission after the 1984 National Convention, be rejected as not germane at this time. If presently-rumored changes in federal retirement are embodied in legislation introduced in Congress, the Commission has a mandate to oppose any changes that would adversely affect any veterans.

### Meetings of the Economic Commission

Members of the Economic Commission and two affiliated committees have held four meetings during the 1984–85 year as follows:

(1) Thirty-seven (37) members of the Economic Commission and the two affiliated committees met in the Topaz Room of the Sheraton Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah, September 1, 1984, preceding the 66th Annual National Convention. The report of this meeting made to the National Executive Committee on September 2, appears on page 20 of the proceedings of the pre- and post-convention meetings of the NEC.

(2) A report of the seventeen-member subcommittee meeting of the Economic Commission at National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana, October 8–9, 1984, begins on page 96 of the October 1984 NEC Proceedings.

(3) In conjunction with the 25th Annual Washington Conference, an Executive Section of the Economic Commission, composed of twenty-five members of the commission and affiliated committees, met on March 4–6, 1985, at the Washington Sheraton Hotel, Washington, D.C. The Proceedings of the May 1985, meeting of the National Executive Committee contains a detailed report in the Advance Report of actions taken at this meeting.

(4) A twelve-member subcommittee of the Economic Commission and its committees met May 6–7, 1985, at National Headquarters, Indianapolis. Proceedings of the National Executive Committee meeting of May 8–9, 1985 contains a report of the meeting of the Commission.

### Report of Award Committee for Selecting 1984 Employers of the Year for Hiring Veterans

The special committee to select two companies to receive the 1984 awards as "Employer of the Year for Hiring Veterans" consisted of James McMahon (Maine), chairman; Bernard Blink (Iowa); Granvil Brittsan (OR); Hemry Field (SC); and Leonard B. Zimmerman (MI).

The committee considered fifty-two (52) submissions from thirty-four (34) departments; thirty (30) in the category of companies with 200 or fewer employees, and twenty-one (21) in the large company category, those with over 200 employees. Chairman McMahon's report was approved at the Economic Commission's business session of March 6.

The following companies will receive a special National Award at the 1985 National Convention:

*Large employer* (more than 200 employees).—Owens-Illinois, Inc., Television Products Division, Pittstown, Pennsylvania.

*Small employer* (200 or fewer employees).—Molycorp, Inc., Washington, Pennsylvania.

Laminated plaques were sent to the nominating departments, immediately upon receipt of the nominations (a maximum of two, one in each category), including the two recipients named above, for presentation at the department's discretion. These other companies are:

#### Large Employers—(Over 200 Employees)

Alabama, Hayes International Corporation, Dothan
Arizona, Hughes Aircraft Company, Missile Systems Group, Tucson
Arkansas, Darling Store Fixtures, Paragould Division, Paragould
District of Columbia, J.W. Marriott Hotel, Washington
Florida, Aero Corporation, Lake City
Iowa, Pinkerton's Inc., Des Moines
Kentucky, Johnson Controls, Inc., Florence
Louisiana, Morton Thiokol, Inc., Louisiana Division, Shreveport
Maryland, Morton Thiokol, Inc., Louisiana Division, Shreveport
Massachusetts, Riley Stoker Corporation, Worchester
Minnesota, Northwest Paper Division, Potlatch Corporation, Cloquet
Montana, Conoco, Inc., Billings
New Jersey, Breeze—Eastern Corporation, Union
New Mexico, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque
North Carolina, Sanford Finishing Corp., Sanford
Ohio, Sanese Services, Columbus
Oklahoma, Nordam, Tulsa
South Carolina, Cummins Charleston, Inc., Charleston
South Dakota, Homestake Mining Company, Lead
Tennessee, North America Rayon Corporation, Elizabethton

Texas, Lockheed Support Systems, Arlington
Utah, Daniel Construction Company, Ogden
Wisconsin, Pope & Talbot, Eau Claire

**Small Employers—(200 or Fewer Employees)**

Alabama, Camco Vending Corporation, Auburn
Arkansas, J.W. Marine, Rogers
District of Columbia, Housing and Rehabilitation Corporation, Washington
Florida, Ivy Steel & Wire Company, Jacksonville
Idaho, Bennett Industrial Sheet Metal, Athol
Kentucky, White Hydraulics, Inc., Hopkinsville
Louisiana, Louisiana Railcar, Ferriday
Maine, A. E. Staley Manufacturing Company, Houlton
Maryland, Stu Lyon Associates, Inc., Baltimore
Massachusetts, Middleboro Fire Apparatus Inc., Middleboro
Michigan, Crotty Corporation, Quincy
Minnesota, Hutchinson Gas and Electric, Hutchinson
Mississippi, Herrin-Gear Chevrolet Co., Inc., Jackson
Missouri, I-SIS Chemicals, Jefferson City
Montana, Norco Products, Missoula
Nebraska, American Diversified Co., Hastings
Nevada, Bolform Buckle-Up, Sparks
New Hampshire, Quin-T Corporation,, Tilton
New Jersey, Bildisco Manufacturing, Inc., West Orange
North Carolina, Allied Maintenance Corp., Wilson
Ohio, A & W Insulation, New Philadelphia
Oklahoma, Mr. Steve's Inc., Ardmore
Pennsylvania, Molycorp, Inc., Washington
South Carolina, Murray Guard Inc., Chraleston
South Dakota, Ken Dehn Texaco, Inc., Rapid City
Tennessee, Dynalectron Corporation, Fort Campbell
Texas, Whatley's Alpha-Omega Security, Waco
Utah, Becho, Inc., Salt Lake City
Virginia, Surfa-Shield of Richmond, Richmond
West Virginia, Cogar Mine Supply Inc., Beckley
Wisconsin, Town & Country Electric, Inc., Appleton

Five of the companies listed above received plaques for department presentation, but were not eligible for Convention recognition because they did not meet one of the four criteria listed on the nonimation form.

The special committee also selected, in case a winning company could not send a representative to the national Convention, a runner-up company in each catetgory. In conformity with Legion policy, a stipend to defray expenses will be given to the company official accepting the award; both companies are sending representatives.

**Savings Bonds Program**

The American Legion continues its active support of U.S. Savings Bonds; the most recent resolution is Res. No. 594 of the 1984 National Convention. Savings Bonds continue to provide the longtime advantages of support of government, convenience, safety, and tax deferral. Additionally, they are now competitive in return with other forms of investment.

The Commission vigorously promotes the advantages of U.S. Savings Bonds through Legion publications, especially the Advance and in the Commission's newsletter. In cooperation with the U.S. Department of the Treasury and its Savings Bonds Division, each year every post commander is sent a kit on how to promote, through the post, U.S. Savings Bonds. The National Organizations Committee of the U.S. Savings Bonds Division, of which the Director for Economics is chairman, sends similar material to the one hundred organizations represented on this committee.

**Small Business Administration**

The Economic Commission has continued to work closely with the Small Business Administration, especially its Office of Veterans Affairs. The agency has set up a Veterans Advisory Council, with Past National Commander Robert E. L. Eaton designated as the Legion's representative. The twenty members of the Council, which is scheduled to meet four times in 1985, represent veterans organizations, the Department of Labor, Veterans Administration, the banking community, and the inde-

pendent small business community. One subject of discussion is the 1986 White House Conference on Small Business.

The proposal of the Administration to abolish the SBA has met strong opposition in Congress. In Senate budget hearings only modest cuts in the SBA's budget were voted, and in cutting most direct loans, the committee retained loans to the handicapped, minorities and disabled veterans, as well as those direct loans for Vietnam era veterans and disabled veterans created by PL 98-77. In the first quarter of FY 1985 (October 1, 1984-December 31, 1984) $2,555,200 went to these eligible veterans under this special direct loans program.

In this first quarter FY 1985, veterans received 22 percent of all guaranteed SBA loans, and 15.5 percent of all direct loans.

Although a separate agency, the Veterans Adminstration has begun a strong move to ensure that veterans in small business are aware of VA buying and contracting for goods and services across the country.

### VA Home Loan Program

Threatening the home loan program of the Veterans Administration is the Administration's proposal to increase the "user fee" on new VA mortgages from one percent to five percent. New, American Legion-supported legislation had provided for the one percent fee to go to the VA's revolving loan fund.

The VA has stated a five percent user fee would cause a 50 percent decline in use of the loan guaranty program by veterans. It was estimated that this fee, along with proposals for additional fees in the mortgage process, would cause the first-time, no-down-payment veteran buyer to be responsible for a loan about 12 percent greater than the value of the house.

The Legion has testified before various Congressionsl subcommittees in opposition to this increase in the user fee. It has also opposed another administration proposal, to eliminate the VA's authority to establish an interest rate. Instead, the interest rate would be established by negotiation among the principals. In practice, this would probably result in an interest rate higher by several percentage points.

In spite of an overall improved economic picture, foreclosures on VA-insured properties continue to be high. The VA has assured the Economic Commission that the agency continues to assist veterans having difficulty in making loan payments.

### Administrative and Legislative Appearances

The activities of the Economic Commission and the two committees, Employment and Veterans Preference, which the Commission supervises and coordinates, are conducted by the Economics staff on a day-to-day basis. Since the last report there has been over 5,000 pieces of mail coming into the office. All paper work relative to the three National employment award programs, as well as for the Citation of Appreciation program, is carried out by the Economics staff. In addition to providing information and assistance by mail, the staff interviews and counsels with individuals who come to the office seeking help. Besides requests from individuals, the Commission receives and answers frequent requests from government agencies, members of Congress, Congressional committees, private organizations, and other groups on proposals that would affect the economic interests of veterans. Letters of comment and suggestions on Economic activities concerning veterans are always welcome, as the Commission believes in the value of mutual exchanges of information and ideas.

Within the limits of priority commitments, the Economics staff accepts all possible requests and invitations for participation in Department and National functions and non-Legion activities that pertain to the Economic program.

The National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, was attended by the Director, Assistant Director, and Division secretary. The fall 1984 meeting of the National Executive Committee, and the Commanders and Adjutants meeting held in conjunction with it, was attended by the Director; the Director attended the May 1985 meeting of the Economic Commission and the National Executive Committee.

The Director serves on the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, as well as on its Committee on Disabled Veterans; he also serves on the Veterans Advisory Committee of the Office of Personnel Management; is Chairman of the Committee of Voluntary Organizations for U.S. Savings Bonds; is a member of the Secretary of Labor's Committee on Veterans; of the VA's 16-member Advisory Committee on Readjustment Problems of Vietnam Veterans; and, as part of these responsibilities, has attended various meetings in Washington, D.C. and elsewhere.

Flags that had flown over the Capitol were presented by the Assistant Director to those being honored as Outstanding Handicapped Federal employees of the Year in

a reception held by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management in October 1984. On May 23, 1985, as part of a similar program of the U.S. Postal Service to honor its outstanding handicapped employees, the Assistant Director for Economics presented American flags that had flown over the Capitol to five handicapped Postal Employees.

The American Legion Extension Program Study Course covering Economics is revised annually, and other publications covering Economic matters are also reviewed regularly. The staff is always ready to furnish material to the departments on Economic matters for use at various meetings and to answer questions and furnish any possible information.

In addtion to making periodic reports to the National Executive Committee and the National Commander, the Economics Division maintains a close relationship with the Public Relations Division so that The American Legion News Service (ALNS), Advance, National Adjutant's Newsletter, and other American Legion publications will have all available, timely information. Liaison is also maintained with The American Legion Magazine, which receives all news of developments in economic programs. Every two months the commission sends a newsletter, Economic Nuggets, printed and mailed from the Indianapolis headquarters office, to those interested in the activities of the Economic Commission and veterans economic interests. Readership has continued to increase in the past year.

The Economic Commission has available publications of its own to help Employment Chairmen and others promote the full employment of all veterans. The American Legion Manual for Employment Chairmen, which covers the entire field of federal and private sources of employment help and information, as well as providing a survey of the Legion's Economic program, has been revised and updated. To supplement this, the Economic Commission, besides brochures on the work of the Commission and the employer awards program, has available Veterans Economic Entitlements, which continues to be in demand more than a year after its publication.

These pamphlets, while providing ready reference for the Employment Chairman, are also excellent for pick-up material at Legion exhibits, booths, and meetings. Over 24,000 copies of Veterans Economic Entitlements have been sent out since its publication in January 1984.

Citations of Appreciation to individuals and programs promoting the mandates and ideals of the Commission continues as an excellent method of recognizing such activities at the local level. Nominations, accompanied by a brief explanation of what the nominee has done, must come through department officials.

The Economic staff reviews legislative matters pertaining to economic interests of veterans, particularly those for which The American Legion already has mandates, and prepares testimony, in liaison with the Legislative division, for presentation before Congressional committees. Information about various statements before Congress will be found under the section of this report on resolutions.

The Economic Commission actively participated in the briefing for those participating in the Legislative rally held in conjunction with the appearance of the National Commander before the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs in September, and "Hill Day" held as part of the Washington Conference in March.

**Conclusion**

The Commission and its affiliated committees always welcome letters and reports on all activities on Economic mandates at every level: post, district, county, and department. All contributions made to our programs by individual Legionnaries, officials of The American Legion, and representatives of business, government, management, and labor are gratefully appreciated.

The Economic Commission and the affiliated committees express their sincere appreciation and gratitude for the splendid spirit of cooperation always received from the staffs of Washington and Indianapolis offices, the National Commander, the National Adjutant, and staff members of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and Economic divisions who are responsible for the successful administration of The American Legion's economic program.

The respective reports of the two committees assigned to the Economic Commission for supervision and coordination follow:

# EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

JAMES A. McMAHON, Maine, *Chairman*

Members of the Employment Committee met with the Economic Commission during the report year on two occasions. These meetings were held on Sept. 1, 1984 in Salt Lake City, Utah prior to the convening of the 66th Annual National convention, and again on March 4-6, 1985 in conjunction with the Twenty-fifth Annual Washington Conference. An employment panel was conducted at each of these meetings, which included participation of representatives from the various government and quasi-government agencies and bureaus with which we work cooperatively on a day-to-day basis. The committee chairman and several members also met with the subcommittee of the Economic Commission in Indianapolis, Indiana, in October 1984 and May 1985.

The Employment Committee's foremost responsibility is enhancing employment and job training opportunities for all war veterans, including young Vietnam veterans, disabled veterans and older veterans of earlier conflicts. The Commitee also seeks to effect the purpose and intent of National convention and National Executive Committee resolutions on employment and related subjects, with administrative functions and day-to-day workload of the committee carried on by the Economic Division staff.

The Employment Committee, under supervision of the Economic Commission, and in cooperation with the Legislative Division, has traditionally supported adequate funding by Congress for the Department of Labor to operate and carry on an effective job placement, employment counseling, and job training placement program for veterans, as well as other programs designed to support and improve the economic capabilities of veternans.

## Jobs for Veterans

"Jobs for Veterans" as priority program of The American Legion was reaffirmed by Resolution No. 430 approved at 1984 National Convention. There have been many changes in this program, since its beginning in June 1970, but the major emphasis continues to be on individuals and groups, particularly through Legion posts, placing veterans who require employment assistance in a job, particularly in the private sector.

The Employment Committee is aware that there is much post employment activity that is not reported to the National office. Programs under Title IV-C of the Job Training Partnership Act, specifically for veterans, require financial and in-kind participation at the local level, and much of this, particularly the in-kind services, has been provided by Legionnaires. The Consolidated Posts Reports show that in 1984, 24,000 veterans were placed in jobs through the 1,200 posts with economic programs.

Many veterans are unaware of national program that will help them find employment or training, and it is crucial that post members are aware of resources available. The Economic Commission continually brings to the attention of post officials employment tools available, particularly those obtainable through the Economic Staff.

Besides providing publications from government agencies, the Economic Commission has prepared, as a basic tool for post employment chairman, the American Legion Manual for Employment Chairman. An excerpt from this, with specific information on job hunting techniques is available for individuals as "Looking for a Job." As far possible, distribution of the Manual is restricted to Employment Chairman. Other publications available are Veterans Economic Entitlements, and brochures on the Legion's employer awards and on the work on the Commission.

We should like to recognize and compliment The American Legion Magazine, The American Legion News Service, the Public Relations Divisions, and the various departments, districts, and posts for their efforts in publicizing the "Jobs for Veterans" program.

## Disabled and Older Veterans

The Employment Committee has traditionally been involved in employment programs intended to improve and expand employment opportunities for veterans of all wars, including the handicapped and older workers. Both time and effort have gone into developing and publicizing promotional programs to educate employers and the general public to the advantages of employing disabled and older workers, especially veterans, in order to combat traditional attitudes which tend to eliminate disabled

and older workers in the labor force. During the Legion year 1984–85, the Employment Committee, in cooperation with the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, observed the 38th "National Employ the Handicapped Week," October 7–13, 1984. "National Employ the Older Worker" week was observed for the 28th consecutive year March 10–16, 1985. These employment promotional programs are designed to encourage employers to hire and retain disabled and older workers by awarding National citations to an employer, nominated by each department of The American Legion, who has done an exemplary job in employing and retaining the handicapped or the older worker.

The Legion is mandated to seek a Congressional joint resolution which would require the President to routinely designate the second full week in March as "National Employ the Older Worker Week" each year. Although joint resolutions to this effect were introduced in both the House and Senate, the past Congressional session ended without passage. Since reorganization and cut in staff of the Employment Service, DOL, has eliminated this source of support for the program, the Economic Commission has actively and successfully sought for promotion from groups interested in employment of older persons.

*Award Program for Hiring Handicapped.*—During the calendar year 1984, the following fifteen (15) departments participated in the National Handicapped Award Program by honoring a firm with an exceptional record in hiring and retaining handicapped individuals, especially disabled war veterans: Alabama, Arizona, Idaho, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Panama, and Pennsylvania.

*Award Program for Hiring the Older Worker.*—During 1984, the following twenty-nine (29) departments supported the National citation award program by recognizing an employer with an outstanding record in employment of older workers, especially war veterans: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Wyoming, and Wisconsin.

**Office of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training**

There is apparent, at least in the committees of Congress most concerned, a strong sentiment for continuing and, in some cases, strengthening, those Congressional mandated employment/training programs for veterans.

Targeted Jobs Tax Credit (TJTC) a program which provides income tax credits to employers of certain eligible groups, in which disabled and Vietnam veterans are included, has been extended through December 31, 1985. The Director for Economics has also testified in favor of a bill to extend the programs for five years, but asking for opening eligibility to all veterans.

The veterans program under Title IV-C of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) was funded at slightly less than $10 million for FY 85 and $7.7 million has been proposed for FY 86. All but one state submitted applications for FY 85 funding. Emphasis for projects for FY 86 funding will be on demonstration projects in a few states, as proposed funds spread over all states would be too small to have an appreciable result.

The Emergency Veterans Job Training Program has required cooperation between the VA and the Department of Labor in getting veterans and employers certified as eligible to participate in this program which pays employers for hiring and training veterans. The VA has established a Committee on Employer Support of Veterans Employment.

PL 98–543 extended EVJTP, with different ending dates for various aspects of the program, and the Director for Economics has testified on various bills intended to further extend and modify the program. After a slow start, EVJTP has had greater success. As of the first of March 1985, of 357,387 veterans who applied 296,347 had been certified as eligible, and 25,420 had been placed in jobs. The 42,554 employers approved had 96,830 jobs available. While 26 percent of the jobs were filled by eligible veterans, only about nine percent of the eligible veterans found jobs. The office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training (ASVET) reports that, as a result of promotion of EVJTP, there was a greater application at Job Service offices by veterans, and about 40 percent of these new applicants were placed in jobs not under EVJTP.

A new concern of the Employment Committee is a method, known as "Validity Generalization," of determining who will be referred by the Job Service to available jobs. "VG" has been tested in a few offices, and is to be installed nationwide by July

1988. Referral to jobs is based on scores on a General Aptitude Test Battery (GATB) and the OASVET has instructed offices on techniques intended to provide priority in job referrals to veterans who qualify, but may not be the highest in the GATB rating.

Participating states will have to make an investment to equipment, which, it is estimated, will be paid back in the first year. An optical scanner can score tests at about 20 a minute, compared to 15 to 20 minutes per test by a human.

Although Congress is recommending funding for the OASVET at nearly the former level, except for a cut in travel funds, funding for the federal/state employment system, the Job Service, is uncertain. The Administration is advocating "devolving" all employment/training to the states, which leaves those employment services mandated by Congress such as placement of local veterans employment representatives (LVERs) and Disabled Veterans Outreach program (DVOP) specialists, in an uncertain status. Indications are that Congress will be reducing funding for the Employment Service, but funding for LVER and DVOP positions will be at the level mandated by law for these assignments. The Job Services are protesting the DOL's impoundment of employment service funds, pointing out these funds are not U.S. general revenue, but payments made to a trust fund by employers for specified purposes.

The first Assistant Secretary for Veterans, Employment and Training, William Plowden, Jr., has returned to his position as State Director for Veterans Employment and Training in South Carolina. Donald Shasteen has now been confirmed as his successor, and brings the experience of the last several years as Deputy Assistant Secretary to his new responsibilities.

Nearly all of veteran related programs in the DOL have been consolidated under the OVASET, except for enforcement of the requirement that federal contractors with contracts over $10,000 must take affirmative action in hiring and promoting eligible veterans. However, the office of the ASVET has recently started a procedure under which one state Job Service will obtain a list of all new federal contracts over $25,000 and then send it to each state where the contractors are located. The state Job Service will then remind the contractors of this obligation.

## VETERANS PREFERENCE COMMITTEE

HENRY J. FIELD, South Carolina, *Chairman*

An Executive Session of the Veterans Preference Committee met with the Economic Commission and the Employment Committee on two occasions during the report year; prior to the convening of the 66th Annual National Convention, Salt Lake City, Utah, and on March 4-6, 1985 during the 25th Annual Washington Conference. There was a veterans preference and Federal employment panel at each meeting.

Operating on the same philosophy held since The American Legion was founded, that "those who were preferred to serve . . . in time of war should be preferred to serve their Nation in a civilian capacity when qualified, "the Veterans Preference Committee remains constantly alert to support veterans preference in federal employment and to ensure that none of these rights, privileges and benefits are diluted.

### Federal Employment

Federal employees in general have been in an unsettled state during this time period of continuing reports of changes, particularly in federal pay and retirement. The Legion's historic position has been that there shall be no mandate when all federal employees are affected, but there is no speical impact because of veteran status. If such changes, when definitely proposed, would have an adverse affect on veterans, resolution No. 440, 1984 National Convention, would be cited in opposition.

One concern of the Economic Commission is the use of authority for special, noncompetitive hiring for eligible veterans. In October 1984, the Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA) authority for Vietnam era veterans was extended by Congress through September 1986, and it was otherwise improved. There is no limit on use of the authority for noncompetitive hiring of veterans with 30 percent or more service-connected disability. The Office of Personnel Management has assured the Economic Commission that it is continually promoting these programs through field letters, regulations, training of field personnel, etc.

OPM's figures for the period April 1, 1983 through September 30, 1983, show that, of overall federal personnel, including the U.S. Postal Service, 41.8 percent of the

total 2,712,482 are veterans preference eligibles. Of these 1,134,013 veterans, 6.2 percent are disabled veterans, and 593 of the 31,661 of those with 30 percent of more disability were appointed under the special hiring authority.

Legislation to prohibit the contracting out of those federal jobs in maintenance and security reserved by law to veterans had unanimously passed the House in July 1984, but the Senate adjourned without action.

Congressional interest and hearings, prompted efforts by executive agencies to help those veterans when contracting our of those jobs does occur. New regulations from OPM provide for funds for training and relocation, priority consideration for every available position in that installation or elsewhere (the Postal Service is included in this), and priority consideration for jobs by the contractor.

OPM, especially officials in its office of Affirmative Employment Programs, continues to assure the Legion of the administration's strong support of veterans preference and of a determination to ensure that all laws related to veterans applying for or holding a federal job are observed, both in letter and spirit.

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# FINANCE COMMISSION

Walton D. Griffin, Tennessee, *Chairman*

Webber LaGrange, Indiana, *National Treasurer*

Paul M. Allen, Minnesota, *Finance Director*

The primary obligation of the Finance Commission is to prepare a yearly budget for submission to the National Executive Committee and to exercise reasonable control to see that the various divisions and/or departments of the National Organization operate within the approved appropriations. The Finance Commission is composed of seven members with the National Adjutant as ex-officio secretary, and the National Commander and National Treasurer are ex-officio members. Also attending these meetings are both Executive Directors and the Finance Director.

The National Organization had an operating surplus of $2,758,258 for the year 1984. The Finance Commission is pleased to report this is almost $100,000 more than anticipated. In 1984 we received $5.50 dues per member, which is allocated as follows: $2.75 to the General Fund. $2.50 to the American Legion Magazine; $.25 to Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

The income of the National Organization is derived from annual membership dues, interests on investments, Magazine advertisements, Emblem sales and contributions.

A full financial statement is incorporated in the Auditor's Report and in addition, your attention is directed to the reports of Committees and Trusts which are the responsibility of this Commission, and can be found elsewhere in this program.

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc.
American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation
American Legion Life Insurance and Trust Committee
American Legion Emblem Committee
American Legion Overseas Graves Decoration Trust

# AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND CORPORATION

ROBERT CHARLES SMITH, Louisiana, *President*

Foreseeing the necessity of a recurring income source for funding its war veterans rehabilitation and child welfare prgrams, The American Legion conducted a national campaign in 1925 which raised approximately $5 million for this purpose. The funds contributed were entrusted to the custody of the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation.

The Corporation was incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware in 1925 and a trust agreement between The American Legion and the Corporation was signed inaccordance with which the funds are administered by the Corporation with the annual net investment income being paid to The American Legion for us in the two programs involved.

The operations and financial condition of the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation for each of the last five years are summarized below (taken from the annual audit reports prepared by Geo. S. Olive & Co., Indianapolis, Indiana).

| | Dec 31, 1984 | Dec 31, 1983 | Dec 31, 1982 | Dec 31, 1981 | Dec 31, 1980 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total assets | $7,340,044 | $7,314,933 | $7,310,964 | $7,316,357 | $7,294,883 |
| Investments—at cost | $7,250,912 | $7,243,536 | $7,221,538 | $7,120,407 | $7,170,044 |
| Interest income Expenses | $626,405 | $61,621 | 639,065 | $629,892 | 605,235 |

| | Dec 31, 1984 | Dec 31, 1983 | Dec 31, 1982 | Dec 31, 1981 | Dec 31, 1980 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Expenses | $27,469 | $23,225 | $20,920 | $25,712 | $26,866 |
| Excess of income over expense | $598,936 | $592,993 | $618,145 | $604,180 | $578,369 |
| Funds transferred to The American Legion | $580,612 | $585,690 | $606,384 | $602,850 | $593,711 |
| Average yield on book value of investment percent | 8.92 | 8.80 | 8.85 | 8.73 | 8.67 |

## EMBLEM COMMITTEE

FRANK JOHNSTON, Illinois, *Chairman*

ALFRED L. LANKENAU, JR., Indiana, *General Manager*

### Meetings

The Emblem Committee has met twice since our last report. The meeting of the Committee in August 1984, in Salt Lake City, Utah, was to consider bids, award contracts for 1985 requirements, and to carefully study operating policy. The second meeting in May of 1985 studied general operations and promotional plans.

### Catalog

The 1985 National Emblem Sales catalog combined American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion merchandise in sixty (60) pages. The catalog, with order blanks bound into the book was shipped using a pre-printed indicia on the back cover and a simple mailing strip. The catalog was mailed to all departments, posts and units (approximately 65,000 copies) as soon as it was received from the printer. An additional quantity of approximately 30,000 was distributed to individual members in response to their requests and at department conventions where we have had Emblem Sales displays.

### Advertising

Advertising in The American Legion Magazine during this past year has been centered on one-page four-color ads featuring jackets. We feel these ads to be successful and intend to continue this type of promotion.

A circular promoting quantity purchases of flags for Memorial Day was mailed to all Post Commanders and Adjutants. Documented returns from this inexpensive vehicle warrant continuation of this type of promotion. A similar mailing is scheduled.

The Emblem Committee continues to regularly review the advertising program.

### Department Convention Exhibit and Display

The exhibit and display of official emblem merchandise at 14 department conventions was conducted during the year 1984. These exhibits were at the invitation of department officials for the purpose of good-will and service to the individual Legionnaires. We have exhibited at 14 conventions in 1985 also by invitation.

Each purchaser benefits by the division's economical direct sales program and quantity purchasing power. The net profit derived from sales is paid into the general fund, which is expended under the direct supervision of the Finance Commission to promote the aims and programs of the organization, thereby further benefiting the individual member.

### Sales Data

The gross sales, net earnings, etc., for the entire year of 1984 and for the first six months of 1985, for the Emblem Sales Division are as follows:

*Jan. 1, 1984 to Dec. 31, 1984 (12 months)*

| | |
|---|---|
| Gross sales | $4,679,076 |
| Cost of goods sold | 2,729,516 |
| Overhead | 1,301,864 |
| Operating profit including discounts taken | 647,696 |

The number of individual orders processed during the twelve month period was 55,159.

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*Jan. 1, 1985 to June 30, 1985 (6 months)*

| | |
|---|---|
| Gross sales | $3,062,808 |
| Cost of goods sold | 1,801,866 |
| Overhead | 762,901 |
| Operating profit including discounts taken | 498,041 |

The number of individual orders processed during the six month period was 39,771.

## LIFE INSURANCE AND TRUST COMMITTEE

JEROME P. DOBEL, JR., Missouri, *Chairman*

The American Legion life insurance plan produced its 27th consecutive year of growth and achieved many important goals. It has two definite and clear objectives: (1) to attract membership in The American Legion and (2) to provide funds for program activities in The American Legion. The plan is administered by Rollins Burdick Hunter Co., in Chicago, Illinois under contract. The American Legion life insurance and trust committee is composed of the chairman, vice chairman, national commander's representative, two consultants and eight other members. The committee met on September 1, 1984 at the national convention and again in May, 1985, at the spring conference held in national headquarters of The American Legion. This committee is assigned to the finance commission for jurisdictional purposes and provides that it shall report through the said finance commission to the executive committee of The American Legion, the governing body of The American Legion between national conventions.

### Improvements

The plan, since its inception April 1, 1985, has continued to move forward and make improvements. An item major importance was the approval of a resolution in 1971 by the executive committee to raise the amount of insurance offered by The American Legion life insurance plan to four full units. Legionnaires under age 30 (26 in Ohio) who were eligible for a maximum of one unit in the amount of $10,000 before, were then eligible to apply for up to four units which provided a minimum of $40,000 protection in Legion life benefits.

Effective January 1, 1984 protection under the plan no longer ceases at age 75. It will continue to be in force as long as premiums are paid and the insured remains a current member of The American Legion, and the plan stays in effect. At age 75 and over, a beneficiary will receive $250.00 for each unit in force, up to the maximum four units.

At the national convention in 1975, the finance commission and the executive committee approved an amendment to The American Legion life insurance plan so as to make available a total of six units of coverage rather than four units. The additional coverage became available as of January 1, 1976. The finance commission and the executive committee at it's fall meeting in 1979, approved an amendment to The American Legion life insurance plan so as to make available a total of eight units of coverage rather than six units.

The additional coverage became available as of January 1, 1980. Legionnaires under age 30 (26 in Ohio) who were eligible for the $60,000 maximum before, can now apply for up to $80,000 in Legion life benefits.

The finance commission and the executive committee at it's fall meeting in 1982, approved an amendment to The American Legion life insurance plan which did make available a total of ten units of coverage in lieu of eight units. This additional coverage became available Janaury 1, 1983. Legionnaires under age 30 (26 in Ohio) who were eligible for a maximum of $80,000 protection before, can now apply for up to $100,000 in Legion life benefits.

The finance commission and the national executive committee at it's fall meeting in 1984, approved an amendment to The American Legion life insurance plan so as to make available a total of twelve units of coverage in lieu of ten units.

The additional coverage became available as of January 1, 1980. Legionnaires under age 30 (26 in Ohio) who were eligible for the $100,000 maximum protection, can now apply for up to $120,000 in Legion life benefits.

Of course, the most important news being that the cost per unit throughout all the years remains just $24.00 per unit a year. This low cost, coupled with the long range value, makes this Legion life plan ideal for those you love and want to remember—whether it's a family, a charity, a foundation, or even your local Legion post. It is not meant to replace any existing policies you may have. It simply gives you added protection at incredibly low cost.

The American Legion life insurance division is most pleased to report that for the sixteenth time in the 27 year history of the plan an increase in benefits is being provided to all insured legionnaires. The benefit increase, amounting to 20%, was effective January 1, 1985 and will be extended through December 31, 1985 on all losses during that period. The increase applies "across the board" and comes without additional cost. As with past increases, the bonus is a result of the claims experience under the plan being better—than—expected. With the newly instituted twelve unit maximum benefit, the increase means that the maximum benefit is $144,000 payable to a beneficiary of an insured member under age 30 (26 in Ohio) up from the Schedule—Benefit of $120,000.

Since 1938, The American Legion has provided monies towards scholarships, to the high school winners of the national oratorical contest held annually. In order to assure a continued first class program, scholarship awards have been increased and this is made possible by contribution from The Life Insurance Trust Fund.

A resolution approved in 1970 by the executive committee increased the awards of the national oratorial contest and funds are derived from the Legion life insurance trust fund. The new awards were, 1st place, $8,000; 2nd place, $5,000; 3rd place, $3,000; and 4th place, $2,000. In addition each department (State) oratorical winner who is certified into and participates in The American Legion national high school oratorical contest at the regional level receives a $500.00 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school. A resolution was approved in 1980 by the executive committee which increased the awards of the national oratorical contest, and this is funded by The American Legion life insurance trust. The new awards are, 1st place, $16,000; 2nd place $10,000; 3rd place, $6,000; and 4th place $4,000. In addition the trust fund makes available to each department (State) oratorical winner, who is certified into and participates in The American Legion national high school oratorical contest at both the sectional and regional level, a $500.00 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school. A resolution was approved in 1982 by the executive committee to again increase some of the awards of the national oratorical contest. The increase of awards was applied to 2nd place, $14,000; 3rd place, $10,000 and 4th place, $8,000. In addition the awards to the department winners (51 departments) was increased to $1,000 each. Also the eight contestants at the sectional level who did not make the final four in national competition was increased to $1,000 each. The remainder of awards was not changed.

Since 1970 the Legion life insurance trust has provided the oratorical program a total of $1,649,018. This amount does include the allocation of $191,600 set aside for their 1985 program.

American Legion baseball became a national program by action of the National Convention in 1925. Professional baseball agreed in 1928 to underwrite the national program for $50,000. Several years ago they increased the amount to $100,000. As in the oratorical program, it was necessary to seek additional monies to keep this a first class program.

A resolution was approved in 1972 by the executive Committee to make available the needed monies from the Legion life insurance trust fund. Since 1972 the trust fund has provided to the baseball program a total of $3,332,463. This amount does include the allocation of $497,248 set aside for the 1985 baseball program.

A resolution approved by the executive committee in 1977 provides annually, monies necessary for support of the junior uniformed groups participating in competition at national convention each year. The sum of $20,000 was set aside for this purpose to be used in 1985. Since 1978 a total of $119,812 has been granted from the Legion life insurance trust fund.

A resolution was approved in 1983 by the executive committee to provide a $2,000 a year scholarship award to the boy scout of year. This award would be given at that amount for four years. The total sum set aside since 1983 amounts to $18,500.

Further, the following expenses for calendar year 1985 were also placed in reserve and to be charged to The American Legion life insurance trust fund; legal service—$4,800; accounting service—$3,600; trust fee $1,500; and boys nation—$127,194. These facts establishes quite well that The American Legion life insurance plan makes it possible to continue these great legion programs.

### Insured Legionnaires Pay Dues Early

The insurance plan is underwritten by two large and reputable companies—in New York and Puerto Rico by The United States Life Insurance Company; and in all other areas by one of the largest companies in North America, Transamerica Occidential Life Insurance Company of California. Several thousand new members enroll each year, which replaces those who have died and those who failed to renew.

### Claims

A dominant feature of The American Legion life insurance plan is in the benefits paid to the loved ones of deceased insured legionnaires. In twenty seven years, claims were paid amounting to $51,033,718 in benefits. These benefits were paid at no cost to the national organization of The American Legion and no expense to the general membership, other than certificate-policyholders. It can be properly reported that the insurance plan has proven to be a self-sustaining program. There is little doubt by the end of 1985 the total benefits paid will be well over fifty-five million dollars.

*Claims Report. Jan. 1, 1985*

| | |
|---|---|
| 1958 | $78,790 |
| 1959 | 159,410 |
| 1960 | 221,545 |
| 1961 | 257,970 |
| 1962 | 393,020 |
| 1963 | 561,574 |
| 1964 | 672,250 |
| 1965 | 730,910 |
| 1966 | 976,474 |
| 1967 | 1,230,968 |
| 1968 | 1,376,243 |
| 1969 | 1,489,100 |
| 1970 | 1,672,521 |
| 1971 | 1,955,909 |
| 1972 | 1,839,294 |
| 1973 | 1,917,345 |
| 1974 | 2,151,480 |
| 1975 | 2,096,983 |
| 1976 | 2,598,185 |
| 1977 | 2,662,192 |
| 1978 | 3,215,425 |
| 1979 | 2,898,141 |
| 1980 | 3,263,408 |
| 1981 | 3,855,550 |
| 1982 | 4,089,606 |
| 1983 | 4,467,599 |
| 1984 | 4,201,825 |
| Total | 51,033,718 |

### Premium Growth

The premium growth is even more remarkable. Premiums or contributions paid for life insurance protection exceeded well over $4,000,000 for calendar years 1977, 1978, 1979 and over $5,000,000 for 1980 and 1981. In 1982, 1983 and 1984 the total premium exceeded $6,000,000. The American Legion life insurance plan is the largest (numerically) of its kind in the nation.

*Premium Growth 1958–84*

| | |
|---|---|
| 1958 | $342,000 |
| 1959 | 390,000 |
| 1960 | 414,000 |
| 1961 | 450,000 |
| 1962 | 840,000 |
| 1963 | 1,178,000 |
| 1964 | 1,300,000 |
| 1965 | 1,412,305 |
| 1966 | 1,652,883 |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1967 | 1,829,728 |
| 1968 | 2,016,073 |
| 1969 | 2,066,583 |
| 1970 | 2,174,070 |
| 1971 | 2,669,473 |
| 1972 | 2,919,409 |
| 1973 | 3,216,594 |
| 1974 | 3,415,618 |
| 1975 | 3,539,989 |
| 1976 | 3,882,104 |
| 1977 | 4,367,713 |
| 1978 | 4,641,752 |
| 1979 | 4,854,524 |
| 1980 | 5,459,932 |
| 1981 | 5,834,993 |
| 1982 | 6,066,474 |
| 1983 | 6,413,891 |
| 1984 | 6,559,513 |

### The American Legion Life Insurance Trust

Under the provisions of the trust agreement, an insurance trust is established for all States but: Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin. In these States, because of insurance laws, they are not included under the trust agreement.

At the close of each calendar year, after claims have been paid and all administrative costs deducted, the remaining contributions are transferred to the insurance trust. There is presently over six million dollars in The American Legion Life insurance trust fund. The trustee is the First National Bank of Kansas City, Missouri.

### Promotion of the Insurance Plan

Throughout the years, the promotion of the insurance plan among members has been in three forms: first, through repeated direct mailing of applications; second, intensified advertising in The American Legion Magazine, Advance, and department publications; and third, by the director, an employee who works with departments, districts and posts throughout all States. Department conventions, district seminars and conferences are attended for the promotion of the plan. During 1985 approximately four million applications will be mailed to legionnaires. Approximately $350,000 will be expended for placement of ads in The American Legion magazine during 1985.

Continually, since 1958, less than five percent of the insured memb rs fail to renew insurance each year. Every year, on or about October first, tens of thousands of legionnaires are requested to report next year's membership card number and make insurance remittance before January first of following year. It provides early membership renewals. As the program grows, so will these many advantages become more evident throughout The American Legion. This insurance is especially attractive to the Vietnam era veteran who joins The American Legion.

All American Legion posts are urged to contact The American Legion life insurance plan, P.O. Box 5609, Chicago, Illinois 60680 to learn how this remarkable life insurance does provide low-cost protection for members.

# FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMISSION

DOC SIMON, Vermont, *Chairman*

G. MICHAEL SCHLEE, Maryland, *Director*

The following annual report covers the activities of the Foreign Relations Commission and Council of The American Legion for the 1984-1985 program year ending June 30, 1985.

## Overview

The American Legion seeks the development of a consistent, viable U.S. foreign policy based upon worldwide U.S. political, economic and security interests. We have been pleased by the recognition of the serious threat in El Salvador and the increased bipartisan efforts to meet it, adoption of a more realistic stance on nuclear arms control, and continuing effort to attain peace in the Middle East. The President's firm leadership in assigning the highest national priority to the resolution of the POW/MIA issue has gladdened the hearts of those appalled by the unconscionable delay in resolving this crucial humanitarian issue. Issues that need immediate rectification are waning U.S. support for the Republic of China (Taiwan), a long-standing and crucial U.S. ally, and for the Nicaraguan freedom fighters.

The American Legion supports a foreign policy seeking peace through strength based on the following principles:

Active promotion of democracy.
Containment of Soviet direct and indirect imperialism.
Strong collective security through NATO and other alliances
Economic and security aid to promote U.S. interests
Equitable, verifiable nuclear arms control

We urge the United States to intensify its commitment as leader of the Free World. If we falter or grow weary, there is no center of power capable of sustaining Western ideals and institutions. To ensure a peaceful and stable future, we must re-establish the bipartisan consensus on foreign policy that served America so well in the period from World War II to the mid-1960s. We believe our members and most Americans are ready to recapture the spirit of unity and commitment which alone can see us through.

## Central America

The American Legion has continued a very active program to support democratic evolution in Central America and prevent the establishment of a Soviet beachead on the Western Hemisphere in Nicaragua. National Commander Bacon visited the region, The American Legion Magazine published several articles, Advocacy Program participants spoke out on the issue, several speakers addressed the issue, and we adopted several strong resolutions. Our principal objectives in Central America has been to support full Congressional approval of the Jackson Plan as a long-term framework for U.S. policy. Simultaneously, we have sought compliance by the Sandinista government of Nicaragua with its 1979 promise to the Organization of American States for a democratic, peaceful Nicaragua.

During his visit to Costa Rica and El Salvador in December 1984, National Commander Bacon reached the following Conclusions:

*Costa Rica.*—Costa Rica is a vibrant democratic society. Although conditions differ in each Central American country, the Costa Rican experience proves that democracy can thrive in the area.

The United States and other Rio Treaty signatories must ensure that Nicaragua is not permitted to destabilize Costa Rica.

Effects of the economic recession and the heavy debt burden will challenge Costa Rica's economic vitality for the foreseeable future.

The United States should continue providing political support, economic assistance, and security assistance to help Costa Rica maintain its democratic system.

Costa Rica's disbandment of its military forces, while saving resources and removing the threat of a military coup, leaves it unprotected from external aggression and internal subversion. Similar unilateral disarmament is not a viable option for other nations in Central America because it would invite communist aggression and transfer security responsibilities to other Inter-American states.

*El Salvador.*—The honest and democratic presidential election conducted last spring has been a giant step along the road to democracy. The Salvadoran army seems to be gradually accepting civil control of the military.

Recent improvements in training and mobility have given the Salvadoran army a more offensive spirit. The standard of military professionalism is definitely improving.

The economy continues to be a very serious problem. Continued recession, guerrilla attacks, lack of confidence by foreign investors and the private sector all retard economic development.

As long as Nicaragua provides a rear base for the Salvadoran guerrillas, it will be very difficult for the Salvadoran government to suppress the insurgency. Therefore, it is imperative for Congress to approve full funding for aid to the Nicaraguan freedom fighters, whose operations reduce Nicaragua's effectiveness as a launching pad for revolution.

The United States must provide economic and security assistance to El Salvador at levels designed to achieve victory rather than stalemate. Aid should be provided on a long-term basis so that the Salvadorans can develop an effective long-term strategy for political, economic, and military improvements. Much progress has been achieved in El Salvador; the Salvadorans are eager and able to do the job. They need and deserve our firm, long-term commitment as envisioned in the Jackson Plan, which proposes implementation of the bipartisan recommendations of the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America.

**General Foreign Policy**

This section and the following five sections summarize foreign relations resolutions in effect during the program year.

Res. 11—NEC, Oct. 1984.—"Protection of U.S. Intelligence Information"—Urges amendment of the Freedom of Information Act to permit intelligence agencies to withhold sensitive information whose release would damage U.S. national security.

Res. 63—1984.—"Terrorism"—Strongly supports the initiatives taken by the President on terrorism and urges the U.S. Government to carry through by assigning the highest priority to combatting terrorism and to retaliate swiftly and decisively against perpetrators of terrorist acts.

Res. 65—1984.—"National Endowment for Democracy"—Fully supports the National Endowment for Democracy and urges Congress to provide full funding for its activities.

Res. 365—1984.—"Foreign Aid"—Urges the American people to support and the U.S. Government to continue to use foreign aid as a legitimate, effective means of achieving U.S. national security objectives through helping friendly nations achieve economic growth and military security.

Res. 69—1984.—"Nuclear Arms Control"—Supports:

(1) A U.S. nuclear deterrent force TRIAD at least equivalent to the Soviet nuclear forces in all respects and capable of credibly deterring Soviet attack or, if deterrence fails, achieving successful conflict resolution.

(2) Continued deployment of U.S. intermediate range missiles to NATO Europe to offset the Soviet SS-20 threat unless an equitable, verifiable agreement limiting such forces is agreed upon by the United States and the Soviet Union.

(3) Significant, mutual, verifiable reductions of nuclear forces by the Soviet Union and the United States to equal levels, resulting in mutual deterrence at lower levels of armaments and lessened likelihood of nuclear war.

(4) A verifiable freeze of equal Soviet and U.S. nuclear forces only after the above conditions have been met.

(5) Maximum emphasis on the equality and verifiability of any nuclear arms control measures, including effective, unalterable verification procedures going beyond national technical means to include fullest consideration of on-site inspection by both sides.

(6) The Bipartisan Report of the President's Commission on Strategic Forces (Scowcroft Commission) which developed a comprehensive, long-term program of nuclear modernization and arms control for maintenance of a modernized TRIAD; de-

ployment of the MX missile; development of a "MIDGETMAN" flexibly based, single warhead missile; and shifting arms control of warheads instead of missile launchers.

Res. 143—1984.—"Turkey"—Supports aid to the modernization of Turkish armed forces in conformance with the Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement without attachment of restrictions unrelated to Turkey's membership in NATO, and urges that this important member of NATO be properly and adequately supported as a lasting friend of the United States.

Res. 224—1979.—"World Communism"—Strongly protests communist aggression and urges the United States Government to use its influence and persuasive powers to deter further aggression and to prevent any further communist expansion.

Res. 311—1982.—"Soviet Union"—Urges the United States to plan and execute political pressure to give the Russian people greater freedom of opportunity and improved living standards. Further, that the United States fully utilize radio broadcasts such as the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe to intensify the pressures against the totalitarian government now in control of the Soviet Union.

Res. 354—1983.—"Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty"—Supports Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty in their endeavors.

Res. 258—1984.—"France"—Strongly urges the U.S. to persevere in efforts to foster and perpetuate friendly relations between France and the U.S. and to resolve differences that might arise between us, to our mutual advantage and to that of the free world.

Res. 451—1984.—"North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)"—Urges the American people and the U.S. Government to enhance U.S. national security by improving U.S. conventional forces committed to NATO, thereby raising the nuclear threshold. Further, urges the U.S. Government to convince other members of NATO to improve their conventional forces and forces contributing to the principle of the strategic defensive initiative committed to NATO and to contribute directly or indirectly to military efforts in other regions, e.g., the Persian Gulf, which benefit Western Europe.

Res. 474—1981.—"Canada"—Urges the U.S. Government to increase its emphasis on Canadian-U.S. cooperative endeavors both politically and economically to enhance the prosperity and security of both nations as well as that of the Western Hemisphere.

**Far Eastern Affairs**

Res. 142—1984.—"The Republic of China (Taiwan)"—Reiterates The American Legion unqualified continued support for the Republic of China and cautions the President of the United States to exercise prudence in dealing with the People's Republic of China, a nation which has not yet proven its fidelity.

Res. 210—1984.—"Republic of Korea"—Reaffirms the American Legion's support for strong U.S. commitments to the Republic of Korea and our support for the sale of state-of-the-art defensive military arms and equipment to the Republic of Korea.

Res. 211—1984.—"The Republic of China (Taiwan)"—The American Legion recognizes that the Republic of China is a sovereign, independent nation and supports the reestablishment of full diplomatic and military relations between the Republic of China and the United States of America.

Res. 212—1984.—"The Republic of China (Taiwan)"—Supports the immediate sale of F-20 fighter aircraft, Harpoon anti-ship missiles and other such necessary military hardware to the Republic of China.

Res. 270—1983.—"Mainland China"—Warns that U.S. strategic cooperation with Taiwan under the provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979.

Res. 356—1984.—"Japan"—Requests the U.S. Government to make a determined effort to encourage Japan to contribute its fair share to its own defense and to develop equitable trading practices between Japan and the United States.

Res. 418—1984.—"Korean Conflict POW/MIAs"—Recommends that the United States Government pursue resolution of unanswered questions concerning those POWs and Missing in Action as a result of the Korean Conflict.

Res. 454—1984.—"Oppose United States Giving Diplomatic Recognition To Vietnam as a Means of Obtaining Information Concerning our POW/MIAs"—Strongly reiterates The American Legion's opposition to any proposal that the United States give diplomatic recognition or financial assistance to Vietnam as a means of obtaining information concerning our POW/MIAs.

Res. 501—1984.—"POW/MIA"—Supports the President's pledge of highest national priority to resolve the status of 2,483 Americans still missing and unaccounted for in Indochina. Further supports the U.S. government policy that the fullest possible

accounting can only be achieved through government to government cooperation. Additionally, The American Legion urges the U.S. Government to ensure this issue remains one of the highest national priority and to accelerate efforts in every honorable way to obtain the immediate release of any Americans who may still be held captive in Indochina; the fullest possible accounting of those still missing; and repatriation of the remains of those who died serving our nation.

**Inter-American Affairs**

Res. 10—NEC, Oct. 1984.—"U.S.-Mexican Relations"—Recommends:

(1) The President appoint a bipartisan presidential commission to study the interrelationships of the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

(2) The U.S. Government encourage more effective U.S.-Mexican cooperation in promoting democratic evolution in Central America, excluding imposed totalitarian Marxist-Leninist regimes, and preventing Soviet or Cuban military activity in the region.

(3) The U.S. Government greatly expand educational exchanges with Mexico at the undergraduate college level and in appropriate vocational-technical programs.

Res. 67—1984.—"Cuba"—Recommends that the U.S. Government continue economic sanctions against Cuba; maintain control of Guantanemo Bay Naval Base; continue intelligence over-flights of Cuba; and, take whatever steps are necessary to halt Cuban export of revolution to other nations in Latin America by diplomacy, economic assistance, security assistance, or, at a last resort, U.S. military action.

Res. 68—1984.—"El Salvador"—Urges the U.S. Government to provide economic aid to El Salvador and furnish increased military training and equipment as necessary to defeat the guerrillas. Further, urges the U.S. Government to take whatever action is necessary to redeem its pledge to defeat communist insurgency in El Salvador.

Res. 79—1984.—"Caribbean Basin"—Urges the American people to: (1) make those necessary sacrifices to stop communist expansionism in the Caribbean Basin, (2) support the U.S. government's efforts to prevent the Marxist takeover of any country in the Caribbean Basin by subversion or armed aggression and to promote free elections of governments to represent the people of those countries.

Res. 101—1984.—"Central American Democracy, Peace and Development Initiative"—Urges Congress to expeditiously approve and fully fund the Jackson Plan as a matter of vital national interest.

Res. 102—1984.—"Nicaragua"—Recommends the U.S. Government to:

(1) Oppose the Marxist-Leninist type government of Nicaragua being imposed on the people of Nicaragua, with a view to helping Nicaraguans replace it with one chosen by the people, through free elections, according to democratic principles.

(2) Provide whatever legitimate means are necessary to achieve this end.

(3) Seek to isolate the Sandinista government of Nicaragua and aid the Nicaraguan freedom fighters in their struggle against tyranny, without directly committing U.S. personnel to combat.

(4) Invite the other free nations of the Americas to join in this effort through the Organization of American States, or individually, as a matter vital to their survival as free and independent nations.

Res. 259—1984.—"Grenada"—Reaffirms our support of the President of the United States for the action taken in Grenada.

Res. 269—1984.—"Suriname"—Condemns the police state measures taken in Suriname and its orientation toward the Soviet-Cuban camp as steps contrary to the development of democracy, freedom, and prosperity in Latin America.

Res. 282—1984.—"Guatemala"—Recommends that the U.S. Government continue to try to influence the Guatemalan government to evolve toward a democratic orientation. Further, that the U.S. Government should increase economic aid and provide military aid as necessary to help Guatemala defeat the insurgency and develop its economy.

Res. 282—1984.—"Honduras"—Recommends that the United States should encourage development of a free, democratic, more prosperous Honduras by providing economic and military assistance and cooperation with Honduras to prevent the further spread of communist insurgency in Central America.

Res. 284—1984.—"Mexico"—Urges the U.S. Government to increase its emphasis on Mexico-U.S. cooperative endeavors both politically and economically to enhance the prosperity and security of both nations as well as that of the Western Hemisphere.

Res. 357—1984.—"Brazil"—Recommends that the U.S. foster, perpetuate and seek to exteral a continuing harmonious relationship with this vast and rapidly developing country as a matter of mutual economic benefit and that the U.S. extend to Brazil significant economic and security assistance as needed.

Res. 363—1984.—"Costa Rica"—Recommends that the United States provide necessary economic aid to help Costa Rica regain economic prosperity. Further recommends the United States provide any type security assistance requested by Costa Rica to defend its democratic system.

### Middle Eastern Affairs

Res. 9—NEC, Oct. 1984.—"Afghan Freedom Fighters"—Urges the United States and other Free World nations to provide adequate humanitarian aid to Afghan refugees and military aid to the Afghan freedom fighters and to continue diplomatic efforts to bring about the removal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and the restoration of Afghan sovereignty.

Res. 354—1984.—"Middle East"—Recommends that the U.S. Government adopt a comprehensive policy for the Middle East to achieve the following objectives:

(1) A secure Israel living within recognized borders determined by negotiations between Israel and the Arabs under the Camp David framework.

(2) A free and uninterrupted flow of petroleum from the Persian Gulf States to Europe, Japan, and the United States.

(3) Restoration of full Lebanese sovereignty and withdrawal of all foreign troops in Lebanon.

(4) Resolution of the Iraq-Iran War without Iran being enabled to conquer or dominate other nations in the region.

Res. 425—1983.—"Libya"—Recommends that the U.S. Government and its allies should:

(1) Continue to control the export of sensitive or strategic items to Libya.

(2) Support Egypt in resisting and offsetting any illegal actions of incursions in Africa by Libya.

(3) Maintain an eternal vigilance towards Libya.

(4) Be prepared to resist promptly and effectively any overt actions or outright attacks against the United States or its allies on the part of libya.

### Advocacy Program

The Advocacy program has the objectives of seeking active support for implementation of key foreign relations resolutions by the U.S. Government, Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and the general public.

Members of the Foreign Relations Commission and foreign Relations Council are encouraged to give speeches, write articles, and write letters to editors and members of Congress in order to develop support for specific foreign relations mandates.

Each participant devises an individual program of advocacy activities based on his/her interests, time available and local situation.

An annual workshop at the Washington Conference provides written materials, expert speakers and suggested techniques to help participants prepare. Supplemental support is provided as feasible at the National Convention, in the National Security-Foreign Relations Bulletin and by special mailings.

Participants are requested to provide feedback information to help improve the program. Coordination by the National Security-Foreign Relations Division with the Public Relations Division and Legislature Division ensures that the Advocacy Program is consistent with their programs.

The current theme for the Advocacy program is "Crisis in Central America."

### POW/MIA Activities

The American Legion continued its dedicated efforts to help resolve the POW/MIA issues. The Special POW/MIA Committee planned and coordinated activities including:

*July.*—The American Legion Magazine published an interview with Mr. Stanley Sommers, POW/MIA Chairman for Wisconsin on meeting the needs of former POWs. Staff attended White House National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony and many Departments participated in special ceremonies. Staff attended annual meeting of National League of Families and reported on Legion activities.

*August.*—Staff attended POW/MIA hearing by the East Asian Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

*September.*—National Convention adopted four resolutions. Commodore Cossey addressed convention delegates. POW/MIA Information Booth increased POW/MIA awareness of delegates. Chairman of Special POW/MIA Committee met with the Auxiliary's Foreign Relations Chairman to improve Legion-Auxiliary's coordination. Petitions mailed to Hanoi. Results of convention mailed to Department chairmen. National Commander presented POW/MIA resolutions to the President and Secretary of State. Mailed results of National Convention to Department chairmen.

*October.*—Pursuant to Resolution 547, National Commander sent letters requesting Department commanders to establish POW/MIA committees.

*December.*—National Commander visited Joint Casualty Resolution Center in Hawaii.

*January.*—Published comprehensive POW/MIA update in The American Legion Magazine. Subsequently mailed informational materials requested by 45 readers. Staff attended National League of Families POW/MIA Awareness Seminar and reported on Legion activities. Mailed results to Department chairmen.

*March.*—During the Washington Conference, Colonel Gerald Venanzi, Principal Advisor to the Secretary of Defense on POW/MIA Affairs, presented a detailed POW/MIA update to the Foreign Relations Commission. The Special POW/MIA Committee met to review 1984 accomplishments and plan the Public Awareness Program for 1985. Mailed results of Washington Conference to Department chairmen.

Four POW/MIA articles were published in the National Security-Foreign Relations Bulletin during the year. The American Legion continued to provide office space for the National League of Families in the Washington office.

**Western Hemisphere Task Force**

The Western Hemisphere Task Force Report V. on U.S.-Mexican Relations was presented to the National Executive Committee of The American Legion on October 10, 1984 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The report was based on an 18-month study, including research in Mexico. Excerpts from the Executive Summary of that report follow:

*Objective:*

This report's objective is to evaluate U.S.-Mexican relationships in order to recommend an appropriate resolution on U.S. policy toward Mexico to the National Executive Committee. Concurrently, this report should help Legionnaires become better informed about the historical circumstances which influence U.S.-Mexican relations, problems currently confronting Mexico and Mexico's potential and prospects.

This report examines the challenges confronting Mexico in the context of U.S.-Mexican relations. The essential question is: How can U.S. policy assist Mexico in a constructive manner to maintain political stability, achieve sustained economic growth, and cooperate in efforts to prevent communist aggression in the Caribbean Basin and Central America?

*U.S. Policy Options:*

There are six substantive issues of U.S.-Mexican relations: migration, trade and investment, energy, debt, foreign policy, and political stability.

U.S. policy toward Mexico should promote mutually beneficial economic cooperation; encourage democratic political stability; develop a shared perception of the communist threat to Central America; cooperate in assisting Central American countries in achieving necessary political, social, and economic improvements; and maintain amicable relations under which neither country poses a military threat to its neighbor.

A spectrum of long-range U.S. policy options toward Mexico includes approaches ranging from economic integration to strict separation.

*North American Accord.*—The vital nature of U.S. relations with its immediate neighbors was highlighted by then presidential candidate Reagan in opening his campaign for the presidency on November 13, 1979. He called for closer cooperation among the United States, Mexico and Canada. Although candidate Reagan did not specify exactly what would be entailed in a North American Accord, it could be envisaged as including periodic political consultation to coordinate in solving common problems, military cooperation against external attack, and partial economic integration of the three national economies.

*Common Market.*—This option would involve the creation of a common market providing for the free movement of capital, goods, and labor within North America and common policies on trade with other nations.

*Mature Partnership.*—This option would not require any lessening of national sovereignty. Instead, it would include procedures for periodic political consultation; adoption of a long-term, comprehensive agreement on trade, investment, energy, migration; and specific educational and cultural measures to enhance mutual understanding.

*Pragmatism.*—This option would reflect a continuation of present policy in which different problems are treated separately on an ad hoc basis and, to a large degree, with little coordination among functional areas.

*Isolationism.*—This option would express a U.S. determination to control strictly immigration from Mexico, refuse economic concessions to Mexico in view of its divergent foreign policy stance, and take a strongly protectionist stance against Mexican imports.

*Conclusions:*

(1) The U.S. and Mexican economies are interdependent; therefore, national policies have cross-border effects.

(2) Mexico has achieved remarkable political stability over the past half century; however, full realization of democracy remains to be achieved. The promises of the revolution have not been completely fulfilled for the poorer classes.

(3) Mexico's debt crisis, coupled with other socioeconomic and political problems, presents a serious challenge to political stability.

(4) Although the United States and Mexico enjoy good relations, divergent positions exist on several substantive issues.

(5) Increased educational exchanges between the United States and Mexico would promote mutual understanding and help provide needed technical skills. Current U.S. programs in this area are inadequate and should be strengthened.

(6) Mexico does not face any significant external or internal communist threat. Mexico's failure to recognize the Soviet-Cuban challenge to democratic evolution in Central America endangers the prospects for democracy, peace, and development in the region.

(7) Past experiences and historical events have resulted in psychological perceptions on both sides of the border which severely inhibit mutually beneficial cooperation. Determined efforts toward mutual understanding by the leaders and people of both countries can ease, if not eliminate, the psychological barriers.

*Recommendations:*

Of the possible U.S. policy options discussed earlier, we believe the United States should pursue a policy of mature partnership, leading to mutually beneficial cooperation on an equal basis in a number of fields. Our specific recommendations are as follows:

(1) We are convinced that U.S.-Mexican relations are extremely important to the future of the United States. Accordingly, we recommend appointment of a bipartisan presidential commission to study the interrelationship of the United States, Mexico and Canada. The commission should be given the mission of estimating likely future developments in North America and making recommendations on long-term solutions to key problems, procedures for developing and implementing U.S. policy for North America, and methods of promoting mutual understanding and cooperation.

(2) The U.S. Government should encourage more effective U.S.-Mexican cooperation in promoting democratic evolution in Central America, excluding imposed totalitarian Marxist-Leninist regimes, and preventing Soviet or Cuban military activity in the region.

(3) The U.S. Government should greatly expand educational exchanges with Mexico at the undergraduate college level and in appropriate vocational-technical programs. Mexican students studying in the United States under the expanded program should study at colleges and universities, both large and small, throughout the nation.

**Support by National Commander Bacon**

The Foreign Relations Commission deeply appreciated the outstanding leadership in the field of foreign relations exercised by National Commander Bacon. He worked extensively to develop bipartisan support for democracy, prosperity, and security in Central America. He also placed emphasis on foreign relations in his monthly Commander's Messages in The American Legion Magazine, speeches, press conferences, and press releases. He took advantage of his trips to the Far East, Latin America, and Europe to study key issues of U.S. foreign policy. The National Commander explained the Legion's positions on foreign affairs in meetings with President Reagan,

Secretary of State Shultz, State Department officials, and numerous Members of Congress. National Commander Bacon's leadership and personal efforts greatly enhanced the Foreign Relations Program.

**Commission Meetings**

*66th National Convention.*—Members of the Foreign Relations Commission met jointly with the National Security Commission to hear three presentations. Dr. Lawrence J. Korb, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Installation and Logistics) analyzed the key military manpower issues confronting the armed forces. Counselor Edward J. Derwinski, Department of State, presented a review of major foreign policy issues. Ambassador Edward L. Rowny, Chief Negotiator, Strategic Arms Reduction talks, discussed past negotiations and the outlook for future nuclear arms control negotiations.

*Fall National Executive Committee Meeting.*—The Foreign Relations Commission met at National Headquarters on October 8–9, 1984 to consider six resolutions properly before them and to discuss pertinent issues of foreign relations.

At the Monday meeting, the Commission recommended five resolutions be approved and one resolution be received and recorded.

The Commission next discussed the Western Hemisphere Task Force's fifth report to the National Executive Committee. It concerned an issue very close to home, U.S.-Mexican relations.

The report examined the historical legacy of U.S.-Mexican relations, analyzed the crisis which has gripped Mexico for the last two years, identified the six major issues confronting the United States and Mexico today, evaluated a spectrum of conceivable U.S. policy options, and recommended the establishment of a bipartisan presidential commission to study the interrelationships of the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

On Tuesday, the Commission first discussed recent developments in the vital campaign to resolve the POW/MIA issue quickly and successfully. The session concluded with an update on Management by Objective asctions and a discussion of plans for the 1985 Foreign Relations Briefing.

*Washington Conference.*—The Foreign Relations Commission met in general session during the Washington Conference on Monday, March 4 and Wednesday, March 6, 1985.

During the Monday morning meeting, the Foreign Relations Commission and National Security Commission met in joint session. Ambassador Charles Lichenstein of the Heritage Foundation described disinformation (and other active measures such as sabotage and espionage) as forming one-third of the Soviets' "three-legged stool of power." The other two legs being Soviet use or threatened use of force and use or support of terrorism. Ambassador Lichenstein said the Soviets use disinformation with great skill and sophistication. He urged The American Legion to alert Americans to the Soviet menace and encourage educators to provide objective courses on the nature and threat of communism.

Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Robert C. McFarlane stated that the United States is in the best position in years to negotiate with the Soviet Union because America's position in the world has greatly improved in the past few years. This change has resulted from modernization of the U.S. armed forces, economic recovery, and overall improved conduct of U.S. foreign policy. In the future, the United States must maintain a credible nuclear deterrent triad. Additionally, there must be a continuing U.S. commitment to assist economic development of third world countries in order to prevent increasing Soviet influence in the developing world.

General Larry D. Welch, Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force presented a very comprehensive discussion of key personnel, equipment, and doctrine issue facing the U.S. Air Force today and those anticipated in the future.

In the afternoon, the joint session continued with a speech by Ambassador Edward L. Rowny, Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State for Arms Control Matters. Ambassador Rowny emphasized President Reagan's policy that any nuclear arms control agreement must be equitable and verifiable and contribute to stability. Ambassador Rowny stated we are moving to a new strategic relationship based more on defensive systems and less on offensive systems. The Soviets have clearly identified their negotiating objective as being the "non-militarization of outer space." Thus, the Soviets may balk at any reduction of offensive weapons until they are satisfied on space weapons.

The Foreign Relations Commission met separately for the remainder of the afternoon. Colonel Lawrence Tracy of the Department of State's Office of Public Diplo-

macy for Latin America and the Caribbean, pointed out that the fourpart U.S. strategy in Central America is generally succeeding quite well. He identified the four elements as support for democracy, aid for economic development, willingness to engage in diplomatic dialogue, and aid for self defense. Colonel Tracy stated that the Salvadoran armed forces have improved significantly through better training and equipment.

On Wednesday morning, Colonel Gerald Venanzi, Principal Advisor to the Secretary of Defense for POW/MIA Affairs, presented a very comprehensive POW/MIA update. Overall, his remarks indicated slow but steady progress is being made on resolving the POW/MIA issue. He described in detail how POW/MIA intelligence information is acquired, analyzed, and used by the U.S. Government. Colonel Venanzi explained how the President's designation of the POW/MIA issue as one of the highest priority is being implemented by the U.S. Government. He emphasized the POW/MIA issue has bipartisan support in Congress and throughout the country.

Ambassador Frank Wisner, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs evaluated progress made in the past four years through the U.S. Government's policy of constructive engagement with South Africa. That policy seeks to encourage an end to apartheid through peaceful means. Ambassador Wisner pointed out that many problems remain, although definite progress has occurred in terms of employment opportunities and constitutional provisions. He also explained the complex negotiations concerning Namibian independence.

The Foreign Relations Commission conducted a business meeting. The agenda included the chairman's report on recent activities, consideration of four resolutions, report by the Special POW/MIA Committee, report by the Western Hemisphere Task Force, report on Advocacy Program activities, and discussion of the new foreign relations briefing.

*Spring National Executive Committee Meeting.*—The Foreign Relations Commission and Council and guests met at National Headquarters on May 6-7, 1985, to consider three resolutions properly before them and to discuss current foreign relations issues.

At the Monday meeting, three resolutions were considered. The Commission recomemeded approval of one and rejection of two.

The Commission discussed a proposed resolution on Inter-American cooperation, and plans to present it to the 67th National Convention at New Orleans.

The Monday meeting concluded with updates on nuclear arms control and Central America. The Commission noted the importance of achieving Congressional approval of funding to assist the Nicaraguan freedom fighters in accordance with Resolution 102. Following Sandinista President Ortega's trip to implore the Kremlin for increased aid, there is renewed hope that the Congress will reinstate some type of U.S. assistance for the freedom fighters.

On Tuesday, the Commission heard an update on the POW/MIA issue, reviewed the POW/MIA Public Awardness Program for 1985, and reviewed a new POW/MIA briefing. The Commission also viewed portions of the new foreign relations briefing.

### Foreign Relations Commission Staff Activities

The Washington staff operates in Washington, D.C. as a combined division serving both the Foreign Relations and National Security Commissions, under the overall direction of G. Michael Schlee. Mr. Harry E.B. Sullivan is the Deputy Director for Foreign Relations. Miss Bonnie Johnson provides administrative support. Mrs. Denise Wilkins, secretary to the Director, does considerable work for Foreign Relations, as does Mr. Spencer H. Leopard, Research Analyst, whose administrative skills proved most effective in providing source material for this annual report.

*Staff Sercices.*—The Foreign Relations Washington staff during the past year performed the following functions for the commission, the National Commander, and the Legion's 58 Departments and approximately 16,000 Posts:

(1) Preparation of policy papers supportive of the Legion's foreign relations mandates;

(2) Preparation of background papers and speeches on foreign policy matters for the National Commander, Foreign Relations Commission, and individual Legionnaires;

(3) Liaison with U.S. agencies in the excutive brach, such as the Departments of State and Defense, and other federal agencies involved with international relations;

(4) Preparation of Congressional testimony on international affairs;

(5) Staff assistance for major activities, including the National Convention, National Executive Committee meetings, the Washington Conference and the Western Hemisphere Task Force;

(6) Liaison with foreign diplomatic personnel as appropriate in the support of Legion mandates;

(7) Preparation of speeches, articles, and interviews as required;

(8) Preparation of articles for the bi-monthly National Security-Foreign Relations Bulletin, which is sent to 1,500 Legion and Auxiliary members;

(9) Preparation of an annual briefing describing the Foreign Relations Program; and

(10) Administrative duties such as answering correspondence, keeping posted on current international events and coordinating foreign affairs activities with other staff divisions, especially the Legislative and Public Relations Divisions.

# INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

HERMAN G. HARRINGTON, New York, *Chairman*

RAYMOND C. PATTERSON, Iowa, *Director*

The Internal Affairs Commission is responsible for policies relating to the internal structure and operation of The American Legion at all levels. In addition, all resolutions and other official matters not falling within the area of assigned duties of other national commissions or committees are handled by the Internal Affairs Commission

Four national standing committees are assigned to the commission for "supervision and coordination:" Constitution and By-Laws; Membership and Post Activities; Resolutions Assignment; and Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials. The Internal Affairs Commission is also the supervisory body for the Sons of The American Legion organization.

### Sons of The American Legion

The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion met October 6, 1985 in Indianapolis, Indiana. the NEC approved two resolutions: (1) the establishment of a "Make-A-Wish" Committee to carry out the National Commander's project, and (2) to change the format of the publication SALutations and transfer responsibility thereof to the Public Relations Committee.

Membership in the Sons of The American Legion has grown to 64,306 as of May 5, 1985. The program continues to thrive and grow with creation of new SAL Squadrons and Detachments during 1985.

### Consolidated Post Reports

Last year, 48 percent of The American Legion Posts filed a Consolidated Post Report with the National Headquarters. Those Posts reporting represented approximately 58 percent of our total membership in The American Legion. The effects of The American Legion at the local level are truly moving: $915,229 contributed to Veteran Administration Volunteer Service (VAVS) programs, 957,053 hours were donated to VAVS programs, 328,197 pints of blood given, $5,924,406 was the cost to support athletic teams, $985,059 spent in scholarships, 2,614,004 hours given to community services and $3,655,375 was the cost of the community service projects.

The greatest strength The American Legion has is its service to veterans, children and youth and the local community.

### Paid-Up-For-Life

Since the program's inception in 1975, over 33,000 Legionnaires have joined the ranks of the national program. This is still the most convenient, and for many, affordable method available to pay your dues for life.

### Energy Policy of The American Legion

The Energy Subcommittee, attached to the Internal Affairs Commission, is charged with the primary responsibility for resolutions concerning energy and/or the environment.

The energy policy of The American Legion, administered by the Subcommittee, is to stress the need for conservation and awareness of alternative sources being researched. Our role is also to monitor our national energy policy and possible consequences to national security.

### Direct Renewal

One of the measures The American Legion uses to judge the success of the various programs is through the continuing strength of its membership. Instrumental to the retention of members in the organization is the direct Renewal program, which is the use of a direct mail method that invites members to renew. This organized uniform and simple method has been a very successful and effective approach and is funded at NO COST to Departments or Posts. Members of participating Posts receive a first renewal letter about August 1. Second, third and fourth letters are mailed to unpaid members about November 1, February 1 and April 1, respectively.

An alternative to using the mail to renew members is to have responsible Legionnaires within the Post getting involved and personally contacting those who now belong.

Adding the personal contact to the mail effort produces a winning combination that spells success for The American Legion.

### The American Legion Good Neighbor Award

The following Legionnaires were selected to receive the Good Neighbor award for outstanding voluntarism in the respective categories:

James F. Walker (Minnesota), Work With Veterans (one whose efforts have significantly improved conditions for veterans in need of assistance).

Ronald Rose (New York), Community Service (one whose exceptional contribution in volunteer service to his community has made that community a better place to live).

John Chvila (Michigan), Heroism (one whose selfless courage and quick action has saved a human life).

John H. Lloyd (Minnesota), Youth Activities (one whose concern for the problems and potentials of young people has brought them increased opportunities).

A dinner honoring the recipient will be held in the local community where a plaque and check made payable to his favorite charity will be presented.

### National Leadership Workshops

The seventh annual series of National Leadership Workshops sponsored by the National Headquarters of The American Legion and Auxiliary in cooperation with all Departments, will take place this September at eight regional sites around the United States.

This forum of workshops is a setting to discuss matters of interest to the organization, but, more importantly, it offers the opportunity to inform, educate, and provide leadership training to anyone wanting to learn more about the past, present and future of the Legion and Auxiliary. Many subject matters will be covered, providing a blend of experiences, sharing of ideas, problem solving, information exchange and the sharpening of skills.

### Direct Membership Solicitation

Research studies have shown that many veterans would consider joining the American Legion, but they have never been asked. In an attempt to reach as many of these veterans as possible, we are soliciting new members through the mail. This new and exciting membership program is called Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS).

DMS has proven successful, having acquired approximately 120,000 new members for the 1985 membership year in 37 participating Departments. Plans for 1986 including expansion into the remaining continental Departments.

DMS will support The American Legion's drive for 3,000,000 members through expanded mailing efforts and television support.

### Family Benefit Plan

For business or pleasure, The American Legion takes great pride in announcing a variety of services and savings available to members only. Beginning January 1, 1985, a limited number of corporations are offering discounts on hotel lodging, motor club membership, car rentals, etc. At this time, discounts/services are being offered by the following companies: Allstate Motor Club, American Red Ball, Avis, Best Western, Better Times, Greyhound lines, La Quinta Motor Inns, National Car Rental, Ramada, Rodeway Inns, Thrifty Rent-A-Car and United Van Lines. These offers are valid only at participating locations. You need only call the special telephone numbers to see if the discounts will apply. In the coming months, it is antici-

pated that other discounts will become available to Legionnaires. These benefits can help you and your family . . . now more reason than ever to . . . GET INVOLVED!

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

FRANCIS L. GIORDANO, New York, *Chairman*

The only authority that can amend the National Constitution and By-Laws is accomplished by action of a National Convention. A standing committee on Constitution and By-Laws does, however, review and make recommendations on all proposed amendments.

## MEMBERSHIP AND POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

DOUGLAS W. HENLEY, Maryland, *Chairman*

JAMES L. ADCOX, North Carolina, *Director*

A report of the Membership and Post Activities Committee will be found separately in this publication.

## RESOLUTIONS ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEE

ALEX M. GEIGER, South Carolina, *Chairman*

The Resolutions Assignment Committee meets only at the annual National Convention. The committee has the responsibility of assigning all resolutions to the appropriate convention committee for report to the convention.

## TROPHIES, AWARDS AND CEREMONIALS COMMITTEE

EARL D. FRANKLIN, JR., Colorado, *Chairman*

This committee supervises all official national awards (with the exception of those related to uniformed group competition) and recommends to the National Executive Committee recipients of the Distinguished Service Medal, the International Amity Award and the Canadian Friendship Award.

At the 1985 Spring Meetings, the committee approved the nomination of Ernesto P. Golez, Philippines, for the International Amity Award.

Also, the committee approved nominations of: Hermon Hersereau, Eric Berntson, Jack K. Martin, Frank Jefferies, Wayne Ross Bradt, Harry Meekran and Andy Innes for the Canadian Friendship Award.

The committee also submitted to the NEC and received approval for two resolutions: (1) to establish the National Commander's Blood Donor Award and (2) to retire from competition the following trophies:

Membership and Post Activities Trophy; Alvin M. Owsley National Trohpy; Henry L. Stevens, Jr. Trophy; Hanford MacNider Trophy; John R. Quinn Trophy; John C. Emery Trophy.

## MEMBERSHIP AND POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

DOUGLAS W. HENLEY, Maryland, *Chairman*

JAMES L. ADCOX, North Carolina, *Director*

The 1985 membership year has been one of continued implementation of innovative redirection within the organization. It is quite evident that our membership is becoming younger and more visible as our nation's leaders among veterans. Our enrollment of Vietnam Veterans is increasing and numerous special Vietnam Veteran Posts have been established throughout the organization.

*Membership strength soars*

| | |
|---|---|
| Total official membership, 1984 | 2,536,062 |
| 1984 membership as of June 1, 1984 | 2,483,164 |
| 1985 membership as of June 1, 1985 | 2,581,862 |

### Eligibility Dates Remained Constant in 1984–85

There have been no changes in eligibility dates for membership since the 1979 National Convention in Houston, Texas, where new dates were established for Vietnam Veterans (December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975).

### 22nd Annual National Membership Workshop

Two National Membership Workshops were held this year in preparation for the 1986 membership year. The workshops were held at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, July 25–26, and August 1–2. The goal of the National Membership Workshop was to achieve a greater participation by individual Legionnaires in examining the membership objective of The American Legion. This exchange of ideas on a national scale continues to be one of the best methods of determining the future of The American Legion. Workshop participants left National Headquarters motivated and prepared to begin another successful membership year.

We are again looking forward to our eight National Leadership Workshops during which we will take our Membership Workshop to the field.

*New Posts Chartered—May 31, 1984 to May 31, 1985*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Posts as of 5/31/84 | 15,616 |
| Number of Posts cancelled as of 5/31/85 | 110 |
| Number of Posts chartered as of 5/31/85 | 60 |
| Total number of Posts as of 5/31/85 | 15,566 |

New Post formation in urban areas in one of the most difficult tasks confronting The American Legion. The Membership and Post Activities Committee developed a "Metropolitan New Post Marketing Plan." This plan has been proven successful and is now being implemented in several Departments. The premise of the plan is that any organization, no matter now great its programs or now large its membership, must continually adjust to the changes of the society it services. The American Legion and its "Metropolitan New Post Marketing Plan" sets forth a procedure for organizing the core city and reorganizing once active Posts.

### 1986 Membership Campaign Promotion

During the annual planning session of the Membership and Post Activities Committee held in Indianapolis, January 17–18, 1985, the committee formulated the promotion plan for the 1986 National Membership Campaign. In excess of 65,000 various awards and incentives are incorporated in the National Membership Awards Program for 1986 to recognize outstanding membership accomplishments at all levels of the organization.

The M&PA staff has prepared a detailed Awards Manual for 1986 and promotional brochures describing Individual, Post, District and Department Awards that can be earned for membership performance.

### National Theme for 1986

During the M&PA annual planning session, the committee adopted the national theme of "Get Involved! We're Winning!" as Posts, Districts and Departments begin their 1986 Membership Campaign.

It was the consensus of the committee that this is probably the most dynamic theme the committee has adopted in several years. The theme is a call for action in a positive effort and is directed at our own members, eligible non-members and the general public as well.

Several promotional items have been developed around this new theme including posters, countertop displays, brochures, bumperstickers, decals, and buttons.

### Unofficial Membership Awards

*Early Bird Awards.*—Thirty-nine Departments qualified for Early Bird Awards by equalling or surpassing the assigned membership total by the September 5, 1985 Target Date. Awards were earned by: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

*Midway to Success.*—Awards were presented to Department Commanders and Department Membership Chairmen in each of five categories whose Department had the greatest percentage of 100% Posts for 1985, compared to the total number of Posts as of June 30, 1984. Membership was transmitted on or before October 8, 1984. Winners were: Category I—Wisconsin; Category II—Kansas; Category III—West Virginia; Category IV—New Mexico; Category V—Nevada.

*Veterans Day Awards.*—Forty Departments qualified for Veterans Day Awards by surpassing the assigned membership total by the November 21, 1984 Target Date. Awards were earned by: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersy, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

*Special Certificate of Most Distinguished Service.*—Special Certificates were presented to 1,206 Posts who had re-enrolled by November 11, 1984, their entire previous year's membership for 1985.

*Big Ten Competition.*—Winning Departments for the 1985 Big Ten Competition are: Category I—Wisconsin and Florida; Category II—Maryland and Nebraska; Category III—South Dakota and Virginia; Category IV—Vermont and Montana; Category V—Nevada and Delaware.

*Individual Membership Workers' Awards.*—Special certificates from the National Commander were awarded to 1,068 Legionnaires who recruited ten (10) new members and/or reinstatements by Veterns Day, November 11, 1984 for the 1985 membership year and a chance to win one of five expense paid trips to the 1985 National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. The winners of the expense paid trip to the 1985 National Convention are: John Purdy, Florida; Kenneth J. Furnish, Florida; Howard Smith, Illinois, Clarence Dudley, Florida; Michael Millican, California.

*Post Commander Achievement Award.*—Certificates were awarded to 1,040 Post Commanders for leading their Posts to a 1985 membership increase by November 11, 1984 by exceeding the Posts' previous year's final membership. This also qualified these Post Commanders for a change to win one of five expense paid trips to the 1985 National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. The winners are Douglas S. Smith, Post 1604, New York; Henry R. Stole, Post 23, Texas; Richard G. Denbow, Post 127, Iowa; Louis Alexander, Post 453, New Jersey; Don G. Gunderson, Post 124, Idaho.

*Veterans Day District Commander Award.*—Fifty-one awards were presented to the District Commander in each Department that had the highest membership percentage for 1985 compared to the District's 1984 total membership, enrolled and transmitted to National Headquarters by the Veterans Day Target Date. The award consisted of a Veterans Day Award Certificate, a twenty-five dollar ($25.00) gift certificate redeemable through National Emblem Sales, and a personal letter from the National Commander.

*Post Membership Chairman All-Time High Distinguished Service Award.*—Certificates were awarded to 118 Membership Chairmen of Posts who had, by December 31, 1984, equalled or surpassed for 1985, the Post's previous All-time High membership.

*Post Honor Ribbon.*—Post Honor Ribbons were shipped to 1,008 Posts whose 1985 membership as of December 31, 1984, equalled or exceeded their total 1984 membership.

*Certificate of Meritorious Service.*—These certificates were awarded to 486 Posts which, by December 31, 1984, had enrolled an advance membership for 1985 equalling or surpassing the Post's previous All-Time High.

*The American Legion Birthday Award-Post of Distinction.*—The American Legion Birthday Award certificates were awarded to 5,614 Posts for enrolling by March 17, 1985, a membership for 1985 equalling or exceeding the total 1984 membership in addition to carrying on basic programs throughout the year.

*National Century Club Award.*—Special Certificates from the National Commander were awarded to 984 Legionnaires who recruited 100 New Members, Reinstatements, or Renewals by The American Legion Birthday, March 15–17, 1985 for the 1985 membership year. In addition to being inducted into the National Century Club, each member was eligible for a change to win one of five expense paid trips to the 1985 National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. The winners are: Edgar L. Turner, Alabama; Perry W. Bradley, Georgia; Jay A. Weaver, Pennsylvania; Lionel A. Morais, Massachusetts; John A Surman, Indiana.

### "Top District Commander" Competition Rules

Competition was divided into five categories based on the District membership without regard to geographic locations. Based on final 1984 totals, District Commanders competed in each of the following categories. A Top District Commander for the National Award was selected from each of the five categories. Second and third place awards also were presented in each category.

*First Place Awards.*—Presented to the District Commander in each category whose 1985 District membership represents the greatest percentage increase over the final 1984 District membership [1] on May 1, 1985.

*Second Place Awards.*—Presented to the District Commander in each category whose 1985 District membership represents the second highest percentage increase over the final 1984 District membership [1] on May 1, 1985.

*Third Place Awards.*—Presented to the District Commander in each category whose 1985 District membership represents the second highest percentage increase over the final 1984 District membership [1] on May 1, 1985.

Category I—Districts of 15–1,499 members.
Category II—Districts of 1,500–2,999 members.
Category III—Districts of 3,000–4,999 members.
Category IV—Districts of 5,000–7,499 members.
Category V—Districts of 7,500 and above members.

### Top District Commander Competition Winners

*First Place Awards.*—National Convention trip which includes round-trip transportation for winner and 6 days/5 nights hotel accommodations while attending The American Legion's 67th National Convetion in New Orleans, Louisiana. Also tickets to the National Commander's Banquet and "Distinguished Guest" status while attending National Convention activities. Recipients are: Category I—Terry Shaw, District 1, Wyoming, 116.74%; Category II—George Wragg, District 17, Florida, 108.28%; Category III—Harry Gieseler, Western District, Alaska, 107.65%; Category IV-B. Frank Fuller, District 13, Florida, 104.33%; Category V-Ted Dzien, District 16, Florida, 104.73%.

*Second Place Awards.*—An official American Legion uniform consisting of blazer, trousers, cap and tie. Recipients are; Category I—John Murphy, Ireland District, Canada, 115.00%; Category II—Phyllis Miller, District 2, Oregon, 108.06%; Category III—James Beaumont, District 1, Florida, 104.22%; Category IV—Joseph Naley, District 8, Florida, 103.07%; Category V—Al Funk, District 1, Wisconsin, 101.35%.

*Third Place Awards.*—An official American Legion blazer. Recipients are; Category I—James Shoop, District 3, Utah, 113.36%; Category II—Charles Evilsizer, District 16, Missouri, 106.27; Category III—Joe Meeks, District 11, Wisconsin, 103.31%; Category IV—Harold Deshotel, District 7, Louisiana, 102.97%; Category V—Bert Vasarella, District 2, Wisconsin, 100.65%.

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[1] Final 1984 membership as of Dec. 31, 1984.

# LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

GARY W. SAMMONS, Michigan, *Chairman*

E. PHILIP RIGGIN, Maryland, *Director*

### Foreword

This report covers the activities of the Legislative Commission from August 1, 1984 through July 31, 1985. During this period, the Commission met five times to review the legislative program and made recommendations to the National Executive Committee. Reports of these meetings are contained in the published proceedings of the National Executive Committee.

### Purpose, Personnel and Organization

The Legislative Commission represents The American Legion before the Congress of the United States on all legislative matters in which the legion is officially interested, and it assists the National Executive Committee in formulating an appropriate legislative program for each session of Congress. The Commission consists of thirty-one members, three consultants, four National Executive Committee liaisons and a representative of the National Commander.

To further assist the Commission in its activities with Congress, the National Executive Committee at its meeting of April 30–May 1, 1975, adopted Resolution Number 45 authorizing the establishment of a National Legislative Council, composed of Legionnaires who are politically active in their states and or Congressional districts and whose judgment and advice are respected by their elected representatives. The Council is headed by a National Chairman, who is an ex-officio member of the Legislative Commission, and is assisted by a Vice Chairman of each Legion Department. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and general membership of the Council are appointed by the National Commander upon recommendations by the Departments. The Spring 1977 meeting of the National Executive Committee further assisted the Commission by adopting a resolution to require additional Council members who have influence with Senators from their respective states. During its existence to date, the Council has been of invaluable service to the organization.

The professional staff of the Commission (the Legislative Division) concentrates on implementing the legislative mandates of The American Legion which are expressed in resolutions adopted at National Conventions and by the National Executive Committee at each of its regularly scheduled meetings. The Legislative Division, located in Washington, DC includes the director, deputy director, two assistant directors, an executive secretary, a research analyst and three secretaries. The staff maintains close liaison with all divisions of The American Legion, the National Legislative Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Legislative Committees in each Department.

### Legislative News Bulletin

The Legislative News Bulletin, a publication on legislative activities affecting American Legion mandates, is published by the Legislative Division monthly at a $5 annual subscription rate. The Bulletin keeps its readers informed on the status of The American Legion's legislative program and serves as an excellent source of material for speeches, articles and reports by the officers and members of both The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

### 98th Congress—Second Session

As 1984 was a general election year, much of the legislative action taken by the 98th Congress during the Second Session was done with an eye towards the November elections.

Several vital pieces of legislation were delayed until the final days of the Second Session. Among the most important was a final budget resolution to set spending priorities for fiscal year 1985. The single greatest area of contention in the projected budget was funding levels for defense spending. More specifically, funding for the MX "Peacekeeper" weapons system kept Congress deadlocked until a figure was finally set at $1.5 billion for FY 85. The budget resolution contained a provision whereby money for the MX system would be withheld until early in the 99th Congress. At that time, the House and Senate would each take a series of votes in order to authorize the expenditure of MX funds. This agreement was contained in the DoD authorization for FY 85, PL 98-525.

Unfortunately, several important appropriations bills were still awaiting action as the adjournment deadline approached. The most important of these appropriations bills, for the Department of Defense (DoD) and for the Postal Service and Treasury Department, were included in a mammoth omnibus appropriation bill which the President signed into law as PL 98-473. This law also contained various crime control provisions, including reauthorization of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

Immigration reform died with the adjournment of the 98th Congress. After both chambers passed differing versions of legislation to change current immigration laws, a conference committee was formed to reconcile those differences which were in contention. An amnesty proposal contained in both bills was retained, despite the objections of many groups including The American Legion, as were provisions establishing a telephone verification system to check identification documents and a system setting up civil penalties for employers hiring illegal aliens. However, the conference was stalemated over discussion of a proposed amendment to make it illegal for employers to discriminate against resident aliens in job hiring. After several weeks of meetings, the conference broke up on September 26, without reaching an agreement.

In hopes of opening up public schools to religious discussion, PL 98-377 was enacted by the President August 11, 1984. This law allows student religious groups to meet in public classrooms under the same circumstances as other student groups. However, advocates of prayer in public school encountered a setback when a silent prayer provision was eliminated from an omnibus education bill, PL 98-511. Another enactment in the area of Children and Youth was PL 98-457 affecting various programs aimed at combatting child abuse, child pornography and family violence. In addition, the reauthorization of OJJDP mentioned previously included establishment of the National Bureau of Missing Children to combat the growing problem of runaway, missing and kidnapped children.

In the area of Economics, there was some good and some bad news. On the bright side, PL 98-411 appropriated funds for the Department of Labor, but particularly gratifying was funding in the amount of $25 million provided for the Small Business Administration's direct loan program for Vietnam era veterans. Contained in PL 98-453, a veterans compensation bill, were reauthorization of the Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA) program and a six month extension of the Emergency Veterans Jobs Training program. The VRA was reauthorized for two additional years allowing noncompetitive placement of veterans in the federal work force if they have no more than 14 years of education. Such veterans may be placed in positions up through GS-9 level. Extension of the emergency jobs program meant that eligible veterans would have additional time within which to participate in the training program. Despite these victories, one significant setback was dealt to veterans in the federal work force by the failure of the Senate to act on HR. 5799. This bill would have given certain job categories within the federal government a measure of protection from being contracted out to either the private sector or to sheltered workshops for the handicapped.

Aid to the freedom fighters opposing the Communist Sandinista regime in Nicaragua came to an end with the beginning of FY 85. Several laws passed by the 98th Congress prohibited funds from being spent for either direct or indirect military support for the anti-Sandinista guerrillas. Congress did appropriate $14 million for CIA aid to the guerrillas but stipulated that the money would not be freed for use until after a March, 1985 Congressional vote.

The DOD Authorization Act, PL 98-473, also contained an important new program which The American Legion has been championing for many years. This program of peacetime educational assistance to individuals entering the military between July 1, 1985 and June 30, 1988 is projected to be an extremely useful tool for attracting and retaining high-quality recruits. Service members participating would have $100 per month withheld from their first twelve monthly pay-checks. In return, members serving on active duty for three years (or two years active and four

years Guard or Reserve duty) would receive $300 a month for 36 months. Also includes in the program are kicker and supplemental benefits designed to meet specific needs of the armed forces. The VA would be responsible for funding the basic program while DOD would have responsibility for the supplemental and kicker benefits.

After years of debate and intensive lobbying by The American Legion, Congress passed and President Reagan signed PL 98-542, which addresses the twin problems of Agent Orange and radiation exposure. A temporary presumption of service connection for chloracne and porphyria cutanea tarda, disorders associated with Agent Orange, has been established if either disorder manifested itself within one year of departure from Vietnam. Further, the VA is required to publish guidelines designed to assure that VA adjudicators handle exposure claims consistently and in a fashion granting veterans the benefit of reasonable doubt where clear indications of service connection are absent. The American Legion can take pride in its aggressive leadership role in the passage of this legislation.

Increased compensation and DIC payments were realized with enactment of PL 98-543, with these payments being raised by 3.2 percent effective December 1, 1984. This law also provided an increase in grants to disabled veterans in need of specially adapted automobile equipment. These grants have been increased from $4,400 to $5,000.

### 99th Congress—First Session

It became apparent during the fall of 1984, and especially after the President's overwhelming reelection, that there would be renewed demands to put the government back on a stronger financial footing. With official estimates of annual deficits running above $200 billion over the next four years, a wide variety of tax reform and budget cut proposals were being discussed even before the 99th Congress convened in January 1985.

Partly created by congressional attempts to gauge a probable consensus among voters in 1986, the federal budget struggle in 1985 has been an agonizing political battle polarized by two primary issues—defense spending and Social Security. Congressional advocates of both have clashed repeatedly and the result thus far has been a budget process that is 90 days behind schedule and is in serious jeopardy of collapsing completely.

Forced to manage its legislative portfolio in this atmosphere, The American Legion has found it very difficult to conduct business as usual. While the following account of congressional developments in 1985 does offer some basis for cautious optimism, it is obvious that major Legion objectives remain in doubt pending a resolution of the budget dilemma.

### Americanism

With the failure of comprehensive immigration reform in the 98th Congress, The American Legion once again seeks the passage of meaningful immigration reform in what has developed into a perennial battle. Last year's efforts failed to produce a compromise, necessitating the beginning of the entire process all over again in the 99th Congress.

Senator Alan Simpson (WY), Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugee Policy, introduced another comprehensive immigration bill on May 23, 1985. His bill, S 1200, includes stiff penalties for employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens. Unfortunately, the bill also contains a "triggered legalization," which would offer amnesty to those who entered the U.S. before 1980. This amnesty would not begin until a Presidentially-appointed commission certified that the number of illegal aliens entering this country had been reduced.

Any meaningful reform of U.S. immigration law must include the counting of family members of legal aliens in the number of annually allowed legal immigrants. Currently, family members are allowed to immigrate but are not included in the annual ceiling. Therefore, the U.S. actually allows significantly more immigrants into this country than official immigration statistics indicate. In addition, it is the contention of The American Legion that for employer sanctions to be truly effective, a tamper-proof identification system must be developed and implemented to work hand-in-hand with employer sanctions. S 1200 also limits the authority of either Congress or the President to create such a system.

Opponents of immigration reform have stated that their opposition to Senator Simpson's new bill would be greater than that voiced on previous bills. The American Legion will continue to push for immigration reform legislation in keeping with nationally adopted views.

As part of national Flag Day activities, House Joint Resolution 211 was signed by President Reagan on June 13, 1985. The new law, PL 99–54, recognizes the pause for the Pledge of Allegiance as an integral part of all Flag Day ceremonies. The American Legion took a major role in getting this resolution acted upon by Congress in an expeditious manner.

The issue of prayer in the public schools has once again been brought to national prominence. The Supreme Court ruled on June 4 that an Alabama law which specifically set aside moments of silence "for meditation or voluntary prayer" was unconstitutional. Many groups, including The American Legion, views this new ruling as another setback in the drive to return prayer to the nation's public schools. Several legislative initiatives are currently pending in the Senate to return prayer to the classroom. Senate Joint Resolutions 2 and 3 would press for a Constitutional amendment authorizing prayer. SJ Res. 2 would allow silent prayer and SJ Res. 3 would permit vocal prayer. In addition, Senator Jesse Helms (NC) introduced S 47, which would legislatively remove school prayer cases from the Supreme Court's jurisdiction, leaving each state free to deal with the issue as it chooses. In the House, a proposal for recited prayer in the schools introduced by Representative Thomas Kindness (OH), HJ Res. 279, has garnered the most cosponsors (76) of any similar vehicle.

### Children and Youth

In the area of Children and Youth, the Senate passed two commemorative resolutions which address American Legion national legislative goals. On March 28, the Senate passed SJ Res. 29 and 31. Recognizing the tragedy and high incidence of Reye's Syndrome among American children, SJ Res. 29 designates the week of November 11–17, 1985 as "National Reye's Syndrome Week." The week of November 24–30, 1985 would be set aside as "National Family Week" by SJ Res. 31.

With regard to the federal budgetary debate, several programs of great significance to The American Legion face severe fiscal challenges. In the area of higher education, the Guaranteed Student Loan program (GSL) has been slated for a reduction of $200 million in FY 86. The Senate Budget Committee in making this reduction proposal made note of the budget for the GSL program tripling from 1980–1984. The GSL program, however, is not scheduled for any changes in eligibility requirements such as determining independent status of students, family income ceilings and maximum levels of annual federal assistance available.

President Reagan's proposed FY 86 budget once again contains a request to eliminate funding for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Considering that youth crime rates continue to rise, funding for the many important programs of OJJDP is necessary. Both the House and Senate Budget Committees have recommended that funding for OJJDP remain at current FY 85 levels.

Unemployment among the nation's 16 to 19 year olds has become a major economic concern. To combat an estimated unemployment rate of 20 percent, Senator Orrin Hatch (UT) has introduced S 797, The Youth Employment Opportunity Wage Act. The bill proposes a $2.50 an hour summer wage for 16 to 19 year olds and makes it illegal for employers to fire older workers in order to realize wage savings. The American Legion supports the Youth Employment Opportunity Wage Act as a means of reducing juvenile crime rates and producing as many as 400,000 new jobs during the summer months.

### Economics

On March 18, 1985 the Senate Budget Committee approved a first concurrent budget resolution for FY 86. Among the provisions was a recommendation to increase the user fee on VA guaranteed home loans from the current 1 percent to 3.8 percent. This increase would mean an average additional $1,820 added to the $650 one percent user fee on a typical $65,000 VA guaranteed loan. Thus, this proposal would cost the veteran $2,470 above the cost of the home. The reasoning behind the Budget Committee's recommendation is that the VA has, over the last two years, needed an appropriation for the Home Loan Revolving Fund in order to ensure its solvency. However, the difficulty facing the revolving fund is, in large part, due to the current requirement that the VA divest itself of its direct loan portfolio.

This requirement originated at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) which in 1983 saw the opportunity to realize a sizeable amount of cash to help offset the deficit. The sale of the loan portfolio, over the course of the last two years, has netted the Treasury $1.5 billion. During the same time span VA has required a total appropriation of more than $900 million to offset the loss. The Legion has been at

the forefront of efforts to preserve the Home Loan program and assure its long term viability.

Several other matters of concern to the economic well-being of veterans are caught in this year's tangle of budget cutting proposals. The first of these concerns is the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the programs that agency operates for veterans. In his February budget proposal, the President proposed complete elimination of the SBA. Both the Senate Budget and Small Business Committees rejected this proposal, opting instead to freeze the agency's operational funding at fiscal year 1985 levels and reducing SBA's direct loan activity by two thirds. However, the Senate Budget Committee recommended that SBA sell its loan portfolio assets. In essence, this amounts to exactly the same requirement imposed on the VA home loan program in 1983 which brought short term revenues into the Treasury but brought about the long term insolvency of the home loan program. The American Legion opposes the portfolio sale.

Two other programs which address the problem of unemployment among the nation's veterans are the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit program (TJTC) and the Emergency Veterans Job Training Program (EVJTP). Both of these programs are due to expire this year. TJTC has assisted nine targeted categories of individuals, including certain Vietnam era veterans, in obtaining training and employment. Employers hiring these eligible veterans may claim a maximum tax credit of $3,000 the first year and $1,500 the second year for each veteran hired. There are currently two bills, HR 983 and S 1250, which would reauthorize TJTC for five years beyond its current expiration date of December 31, 1985. The Legion has also recommended that current eligibility requirements be modified to allow economically disadvantaged veterans from any period of war to participate in TJTC.

Since 1983, EVJTP has assisted Korean War, Vietnam and disabled veterans who have been unemployed for at least 15 of the previous 20 weeks in finding low-term employment. The program utilizes reimbursement payments to employers hiring and training eligible veterans. Two bills have been introduced in the 99th Congress to effect changes in EVJTP. One bill, HR 1408, would extend the certification process for veterans until December 31, 1985 and for employers until July 1, 1986. In contrast, HR 1122 would extend the entire program for two years. In addition, HR 1122 would modify the minimum number of weeks a veteran must be unemployed for eligibility in the program from 15 weeks to five.

It is The American Legion's contention that reauthorization of both EVJTP and TJTC will address the nationwide unemployment problems of a nucleus of 300,000 unemployed veterans, a nucleus which works to keep veteran unemployment rates above national levels. The tax and cash flow benefits many employers receive from utilizing these programs should be a major incentive to the business community to seek continued operation of both of these programs. The Legion has testified in favor of the continuation of EVJTP and TJTC.

For the past several years, in spite of the Veterans Preference Act, there have been concerted efforts to "contract out" the jobs of messengers, custodians, and guards either to the private sector or to handicapped workshops. This year, Representative Benjamin Gilman (NY) has introduced HR 1802 which aims to protect these positions from contracting out. On June 26, the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee favorably reported HR 1802 to the full House for consideration. Prospects for passage of the bill appear to be good, as similar legislation unanimously passed the House last year.

### Foreign Relations

The focus of the Legion's activities regarding Central America has shifted slightly since last year. The Reagan Administration has requested $132.6 million in military and $299.8 million in economic aid for El Salvador in its continuing struggle against communist subversion. Recent events have suggested that the government of President Napoleon Duarte is gaining firmer control of power in the country, and human rights abuses are at their lowest levels in several years. Despite this progress, the cold-blooded murder of six Americans, four of them U.S. Marines, on June 19 in El Salvador's capital city demonstrates the need for increased action to suppress communist insurgency and terrorism in Central America.

Aid to the freedom fighters opposing the Communist Sandinista regime in Nicaragua has had an up-and-down history thus far in the 99th Congress. In early 1985 President Reagan requested $14 million in emergency "humanitarian" aid to the Contras, which would include food, medicine and other nonlethal supplies. On April 23 the Senate passed the President's request, but on the same day the House rejected the aid by a vote of 213-215. The following day, Nicaraguan leader Daniel

Ortega, confident that the Contra rebels would be deprived of further U.S. aid this year, flew to Moscow seeking additional aid for his country.

Almost immediately, Congressional leaders launched a second drive to send aid to the anti-Sandinista freedom fighters. On June 6 and 7, the Senate approved $38 million in humanitarian aid to the Contras ($14 million for the remainder of FY 85, and $24 million for FY 86). The House followed suit on June 13, voting 248–184 in favor of sending $27 million in nonmilitary aid. Several reasons can be given for the dramatic turnaround. Perhaps most important is that many House Democrats did not want their constituents to view them as soft on communism, expecially in view of Mr. Ortega's trip to Moscow. In addition, some members felt it difficult to vote against humanitarian aid. The American Legion applauds this latest Congressional action, in hopes that a final resolution of the Nicaraguan problem will be effected by this aid.

Another area of Legion concern is the Genocide Treaty, first introduced to the Senate by President Harry Truman in 1949 during the 81st Congress. The Genocide Treaty has been rejected by every Congress since that time. Major objections to the treaty involve fears that U.S. ratification would supersede the Constitution and its guarantee of basic rights to our citizens, as well as placing this nation under the jurisdiction of the World Court.

On May 21, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted in favor of the Genocide Treaty by a vote of 10–0 with seven members voting "present". To address the objections mentioned above (shared by the American Legion), several conditions to ratification were drafted. Among them was one which specifically allows the United States to exempt itself from World Court jurisdiction under the treaty. As many as 19 of the 96 signatories of the Genocide Treaty—including several communist nations—have attached similar reservations to their ratification of the treaty.

### Internal Affairs

One of the prime concerns in the area of Internal Affairs continues to be nonprofit postage rate stability. In order for the Postal Service to preserve rates at their current levels, an FY 86 appropriation of approximately $940 million would be needed for the Revenue Foregone postal subsidy. Despite this, the Senate Budget Committee deleted all funding for Revenue Foregone from its first budget resolution, later increasing funding to $100 million for FY 86. In contrast, the House has sought the full $940 million recommended by the Postal Service. While the budget and appropriations struggles are far from over, it is becoming clear that Congress is inclined to reduce the amount of money available for the subsidy.

One of The American Legion's legislative victories from the 98th Congress was passage of legislation to raise the volunteer mileage tax deduction from $.09 a mile to $.12 a mile, taking effect this year. This deduction, a component of charitable contributions, is being challenged by the Administration's tax reform plan. The Legion has defended the deduction in congressional hearings and has recommended that all charitable contribution activities continue to be available to "nonitemizing" taxpayers. In the interest of fairness, any deduction available to itemizers should be available to nonitemizers especially if that deduction creates an incentive for contributions of funds or services to programs which are no longer funded by the federal government. This is particularly true of the volunteer mileage deduction as a means of inducing voluntarism.

For the past 10 years, this country has been developing the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) as a future protection against oil shortages, real or artificial. In 1975 Congress enacted legislation to create the SPR so that the country would have sufficient on-hand crude oil stocks to lessen or offset the impact of cutoffs of imported oil in the future. Using underground salt domes and other facilities in Texas and Louisiana, the SPR now contains approximately 450 million barrels of oil. Taking current national consumption rates into consideration, this translates into about 5 months of cushion should another oil supply disruption take place.

Present events, however, have caused the Administration to reassess the SPR. In his FY 86 budget proposal, the President recommended a moratorium on further development of SPR after 1985, with projected Energy Department savings set at $1.5 billion for FY 86. Despite the President's proposals, Congress took action on June 27 by passing legislation to reauthorize the continued construction, filing, maintenance and use of SPR through June 30, 1989. The new law, PL 99–58, also requires the Energy Department to carry out a test sale of oil drawn from the SPR within six months to test the bidding and sales procedures for oil distribution to consumers.

However, PL 99–58 does not contain appropriations for SPR, nor does it set a fill rate for SPR. Congressional leaders favor a decreased fill rate of about 50,000 bar-

rels a day, a rate contained in the House budget resolution. Despite optimistic predictions of oil supplies and current consumer needs, The American Legion feels it is imperative to continue to fill the SPR.

**National Security**

Congressional action on funding and deployment of the MX "Peacekeeper" missile system continues to be the centerpiece of National Security developments. As part of a compromise in the FY 85 defense appropriations package (PL 98-473), Congress voted early in the First Session of the 99th Congress to authorize the release of $1.5 billion for the acquisition of 21 MX missiles. On March 19 the Senate passed SJ Res. 71, the MX funding authorization vehicle, by a 55-45 vote, with House approval coming one week later by a vote of 219-213. The bill to release the funding for MX, HJ Res. 181, passed the House on March 28 by a voice vote, and the MX funding bill was signed into law by the President on April 4 as PL 99-18. The Legion exerted influence on Members of Congress, no doubt with a positive effect on the outcome.

However, the battle for MX is not over. Both chambers of Congress, mindful of the national mood in favor of budgetary restraint, have recommended reductions in the President's MX request for FY 86. During Senate consideration of S 1160, the FY 86 DOD authorization measure, the Administration agreed to an amendment to limit to 50 the number of MX missile which would be deployed in existing silos. In the House consideration of its version of the DOD authorization (HR 1872) also produced a proposed cap on MX deployment, but the House's limitation of 40 is more stringent than the Senate's cap of 50. However, the House voted to authorize no funding whatsoever for MX acquisition in FY 86, but did approve 4921 million to keep MX production lines "warm" and ready to crank out additional missiles as necessary.

It is rather disheartening that some members of the House remain unconvinced of the necessity of acquisition and deployment of MX. During the last several years while Congress debated U.S. ICBM systems the Soviet Union has developed a new generation of nuclear weaponry capable of destroying U.S. missile silos. In addition, it is important that the MX be deployed in order to demonstrate to the Soviets and their arms treaty negotiators in Geneva that the United States is committed to a strong national defense.

In a related area, Congress has also authorized funding for Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) research. On June 20, the full House approved $2.5 billion in funding for SDI research to be included in HR 1872 by a vote of 256-150. During debate on SDI, various proposals to either further reduce or eliminate funding for this research were rejected. Earlier, on June 4, the Senate defeated similar attempts to reduce SDI funding in S 1160 below the $3 billion recommended by the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Principal objections to SDI center on allegations that SDI research violates the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty of 1972. However, it is widely believed that research into as yet unrealized technology is not necessarily a prohibited item under the treaty. Even so, recent reports of Soviet research into similar technologies render any arguments against such research, including Soviet charges at the Geneva arms talks, meaningless. The American Legion feels that any research which may render nuclear weapons obsolete, while strengthening the national security interests of this country, is worthwhile and essential.

On June 5 when the Senate passed the FY 86 DOD authorization bill, it approved a rise in defense spending only sufficient to cover the cost of inflation. Apart from MX and SDI funding, several other areas of Legion interest also received substantial funding, including the B-1 bomber, developmental funding for the "Midgetman" ballistic missile, the M-1 Abrams tank and binary chemical weapons.

The House-passed version, HR 1872, contained 165 amendments, several of interest to Legion mandates. One amendment, in response to recent revelations of extensive domestic spying both inside and outside the military, would institute the death penalty for persons convicted of espionage in peacetime. A second amendment would allow military forces to arrest suspected drug smugglers. This particular amendment passed the House by an overwhelming 364-51. Several other amendments added to HR 1872 were aimed at combatting waste, fraud and abuses in defense contracting. HR 1872 passed the full House on June 27 by a 278-106 vote. Due to the wide disparity on overall funding, as well as so many House attached amendments, HR 1872 and S 1160 now face the long conference process.

In regard to federal budgetary austerity, the military retirement system has come under careful scrutiny in the past two years, particularly because of its projected

$18 billion cost for FY 86. In addition to reform proposals from the Congressional Budget Office, the Grace Commission and the Pentagon itself, Representative Les Aspin (WI), Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, has recommended an across-the-board reduction of $4 billion in the military retirement system. In the Senate, Senator Paul Simon (IL) has proposed that new members of the armed forces be required to serve a minimum of 25 years before becoming eligible for retirement (in contrast to 20 years under the current system). In addition, Senator Simon's plan would reduce the "multiplier" used to determine monthly pensions (based on final base pay) from 2.5 percent to 2 percent. While none of these proposals have been put into legislative form, The American Legion will keep a close eye on any and all proposals aimed at changing the military retirement system.

**Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation**

Several FY 86 budget recommendations on Capitol Hill, if implemented, could dramatically affect the timeliness and quality of health-care delivery to this nation's veterans. Several of these recommendations were first suggested by the Grace Commission and the fact that they are being seriously considered indicates the concern with which federal budgetcutters view the continuing budget crisis. The three greatest challenges to the current VA medical system involve third party reimbursement, means tested eligibility of non-service connected veterans and the GS 11-15 grade reduction plan.

Addressing third party reimbursement and means testing initially, both of these provisions were under consideration by Congress for inclusion in the fiscal year 1986 budget. While supporters claim savings of more than $300 million annually, VA officials have stated before Congressional committees that the cost of implementing these mechanisms would probably exceed the costs that are recovered. The reason for this is that, generally speaking, non-service connected veterans taking advantage of space available VA health care are single, male, poor and often unemployed. Therefore, few veterans using VA have private health insurance policies and, in fact, most of these veterans have too little in personal resources to be adjudged ineligible for VA care even if a means test is imposed.

Currently, private health insurers pay claims for care in the private sector when they are provided with a detailed inventory of what health services were actually delivered to a patient and at what cost. The VA currently has no accounting capability similar to that of the private sector, and to install one for the purpose of collecting very little from insurers would be very costly.

As for imposing a means test for eligibility for VA health care, proponents have missed some rather basic points in their desire to effect what they believe to be savings. This is particularly true of the effects a means test would have on veterans over age 65 who now enjoy eligibility for care on a space available basis. Current available figures reflect that the average daily cost of treatment in a VA facility is less than the average daily cost of care provided through Medicare.

Another worst-possible-case scenario envisions non-service connected veterans over 65 selling their property or cashing out life insurance policies in order to establish eligibility for VA health care. While this may sound a bit outrageous, this is exactly what happens to many elderly citizens when they exhaust their Medicare eligibility and are forced by health-care costs to become poor enough to be eligible for Medicaid paid nursing home care, 41 percent of which was provided in this way last year.

With regard to the GS 11-15 issue, the Grace Commission made a sweeping statement that the federal government has an excess of employees in salary grades 11 through 15 as compared to the number of white collar employees in equivalent pay grades in the private sector. As a result, the Director of the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a memorandum in early 1984 directing all federal agencies to reduce the number of employees in the GS 11-15 range through budget reductions over the next four years. The VA Administrator began to implement these reductions. However, VA employees within the GS 11-15 pay grades are largely health-care personnel responsible for direct patient care.

Legion field representatives reported on a variety of cutbacks in personnel levels and in patient care at many VA facilities across the country. In light of this situation, The American Legion sought and obtained an exemption for certain VA personnel involved in direct patient care. However, funding for these positions was not included in the FY 85 VA budget, thereby nullifying the effects of the exemption by forcing VA to absorb the supposed savings through hiring and promotion freezes.

To answer this challenge, the House of Representatives included $152.5 million in funding for pay supplementals for the VA to allow the continued retention of

needed medical care personnel. The vehicle for this funding is HR 2577, a supplemental appropriation bill for FY 85. In the Senate's version of HR 2577, $122.5 million has been allocated for VA pay supplementals. As a result of these differing figures, a conference committee to resolve this and other differences in the two versions of HR 2577 will be necessary before the funds proposed can be disbursed.

In late July, the Senate passed S. 876, a bill to make several improvements in the delivery of health care by VA to veterans. Several pilot programs within VA would be created by this bill. These include programs to provide community-based non-institutional alternatives to hospital and nursing home care for older veterans and community-based care for the chronically mentally ill. This measure would also prohibit the VA Administrator from making further pay grade reductions (with regard to the GS 11-15 bulge) unless he had submitted to Congress a report detailing the reasons for the proposed reductions.

Another section of S. 876 would extend until September 30, 1989 eligibility for VA health care of veterans exposed to either Agent Orange in Vietnam or to atomic radiation from 1945 to 1962. Current law would terminate treatment eligibility for Agent Orange and radiation exposure nearly two years before a comprehensive study of the effects of Agent Orange exposure is scheduled to be released. Another section of S. 876 would create a pilot program of Vietnam Veteran Resource Centers to increase the effectiveness of services provided by VA to such veterans by increasing coordination of these services and adding some new services. This bill also contains a provision which would prohibit any money earned by a veteran participating in a work therapy program from being counted against his annual income for pension payments determination, as well as a provision to establish a committee within VA to develop guidelines for the future planning and construction of VA hospital facilities.

A similar measure, HR 505, passed the full House on May 21. This bill contains a provision for respite, or hospice, care for veterans afflicted with chronic illnesses. This is intended to free up hospital beds currently occupied by chronically ill patients. Another initiative in the measure aimed by saving costs of inpatient beds allows veterans in VA nursing homes, domiciliaries or hospital based home care programs to be admitted directly into community nursing homes rather than first being admitted to a VA hospital, as is currently taking place. Another item of HR 505 would authorize expansion of the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers (GRECC) program from 15 to 25 centers. This program encourages clinical treatment of, and research into, diseases affecting older veterans.

Other portions of HR 505 would address contract care for veterans in Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands, readjusted benefits for VA doctors and dentists, and authority for VA to contract with community treatment facilities for care of veterans with alcohol and drug abuse problems. Provisions in HR 505 which are similar to ones in S 876 include a prohibition against further VA implementation of GS 11-15 grade reductions and authorization of a demonstration project to determine the cost effectiveness and medical effectiveness of chiropractic care.

On May 20, the House passed HR 2343, the Veterans Compensation Benefits Amendments of 1985. This measure contains five major provisions of concern to veterans. First, VA would be required to maintain at least one Regional Office in each state. If adopted by the Senate, a budget proposal to consolidate Regional Office activities into three main offices will have been defeated. Second, the maximum insurance for military personnel including members of the Individual Ready Reserve and the inactive National Guard is increased from $35,000 to $50,000. A third section equalizes housing and nonservice connected health benefits of individuals on "active duty for training" status with those enjoyed by individuals "on active duty" status. Fourth, authority for VA to operate a Regional Office in the Philippines would be extended to September 30, 1988. Finally, HR 2343 expresses the sense of Congress that disability compensation should remain tax exempt.

In view of continuing difficulties in producing a budget resolution for FY 86, subcommittees charged with working up appropriations bills for the upcoming fiscal year have been operating without budget guidelines. Despite this, the House Appropriations Committee has approved a spending plan for VA which seems intent on assuring that most services and benefits receive funding sufficient to keep the agency's mission to veterans intact.

For example, the committee recommended that funding levels for compensation and benefits be set at $14.2 billion, the same as that contained in the Administration's budget. The area of medical care, however, would receive more from the committee than from the Administration, a total appropriation of $9.4 billion. Part of this increase is intended to maintain current VA staff levels which were cut due to the impact of the Grace Commission's recommendation over the GS 11-15 bulge

mentioned earlier in this report. The extra funding would also offset a proposed 5 percent pay reduction proposed for all federal agencies next fiscal year.

The important area of medical and prosthetic research would also receive substantial funding increases of $8.7 million for a total of $!95.8 million. Much of these additional funds would offset proposed pay reductions.

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# NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

ROGER A. MUNSON, Ohio, *Chairman*

G. MICHAEL SCHLEE, Maryland, *Director*

"Looking to the distant future, strategic defenses might provide the means by which we and the Soviets could consider extremely radical reduction—and perhaps the eventual elimination—of nuclear arms."—PAUL H. NITZE, Special Advisor to the President on Arms Control Matters

The National Security Commission, over the past year, has endeavored to remain informed and to keep out membership informed on the complex issues relating to the defense of this nation in order to recommend a responsible policy on national defense to the governing bodies of The American Legion. To accomplish this task, the Commission conducts regular meetings designed to provide current information, presented by responsible government officials on timely issues concerning national security. Three of these meetings take place in conjunction with the meetings of the National Executive Committee and the fourth is held during the annual Washington Conference.

*66th National Convention.*—On August 31, 1984, 139 members of the National Security Commission and invited guests traveled to Hill Air Force Base, home of two figher wings, one in the active Air Force, and one in the Air Force Reserve, and the Ogden Air Logistics Center.

During the visit, members toured the facility which monitors mock combat between fighters and provides immediate information to instructors who flag mistakes and discuss them with the pilots; toured the facility which rebuilds F-4 and F-16 aircraft; 23-F-16s and 40-F-4 aircraft are currently being rebuilt. They visited a hanger where attendees were briefed on and inspected an F-16 fighter plane, the most current aircraft in the inventory; and received a briefing on the current status of the Inter-continental Ballistic Missile force and an update on the U.S.-USSR strategic missile force balance. The day was capped by a flight demonstration of the capabilities of the F-16.

On Saturday morning, September 1, 1984, members of the National Security Commission met in joint session with the Foreign Relations Commission for a briefing program of interest to members of both commissions. The first speaker was the Honorable Lawrence J. Korb, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower, Installations and Logistics. Dr. Korb outlined the current status of recruiting and retention in the armed forces and indicated the steps taken to forestall potential recruiting problems being faced by the armed forces in the next decade.

Following Dr. Korb's presentation, former Congressman Edward J. Derwinski, who now serves as Counselor to the Department of State, briefed the joint session on the current status of U.S. foreign policy. He pointed out that where the U.S. has trouble in the area of foreign policy, the Soviet Union is involved, and suggested ways by which the current Administration has taken steps to foster better relations with our adversaries.

The last speaker of the morning was Ambassador Edward L. Rowny, Chief Negotiator to the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START). Ambassador Rowny briefed both commissions on the current status of negotiations with the Soviets, as well as pointing out some of the differences in viewpoints between the United States and Soviet negotiators.

During an afternoon session, the National Security Commission conducted a review of the resolutions to be considered by the Convention Committee on Security on September 2.

No resolutions were adopted or other business conducted.

*National Executive Committee, October 10-11, 1984.*—The Commission met in the Hilton Hotel to consider sixteen Resolutions properly referred. Two were recommended for re-referral to another commission, four were recommended to be received and recorded, six were recommended for rejection, and four were recommend-

ed to be held for further study. In his report to the National Security Commission, Chairman Roger Munson said:

"The National Security Commission is most appreciative of the support of the National Executive Committee. Your individual and collective aid in fulfilling the mandates of the Commission has been instrumental in keeping the Congress aware of the need for a strong national security policy of the United States.

Our great nation faces a series of situations in the coming decade. Some have characterized these situations as stalemates. The Marxist oriented Sandinistas in Nicaragua face determined opposition from rebels in both the north and south in that country. The freely elected government in El Salvador is holding its own against the communist rebels attempting to take control in that country through force of arms. Israel has conducted successful military operations which have resulted in a stalemate with its Arab adversaries. Iran and Iraq have sizeable armies facing each other across their southern borders. The United States has reached a period of stalemate with the Soviet Union.

In each case, there is a possibility that the stalemate could be resolved in a manner which would not be in America's best interest. This nation cannot and will not let this happen as long as our armed forces are seen as ready and able to intervene successfully.

Just about one year ago, we proved our mettle, and our determination to do what is right by the invasion and restoration of democracy on the island of Grenada.

We were able to do this because of our vigilance. Vigilance in detecting and correcting the shortcomings of our armed forces. Vigilance in gathering and interpreting the intelligence data necessary to accurately predict what is happening. And vigilance in committing our armed forces in the proper numbers and proper mix to conduct a successful military operation.

The costs were not cheap. Lives were lost, and equipment was destroyed, but our international credibility was restored. We are once again seen as willing to defend our national interest.

We paid a price. But in the words of the retired Staff Sergeant from the Ohio National Guard, 'Eternal vigilance costs. Lack of it cost more, and hurts longer.'"

*Washington Conference, March 4–6, 1985.*—The National Security Commission met in general session during the Washington Conference on Monday, March 4 and Wednesday, March 6, 1985. Subjects covered during each session follow:

On morning session, March 4, the National Security Commission and Foreign Relations Commission met in joint session. Ambassador Charles Lichenstein of the Heritage Foundation described disinformation (and other active measures such as sabotage and espionage) as forming one-third of the Soviets' "three-legged stool of power." The other two legs being Soviet use or threatened use of force and use or support of terrorism. Ambassador Lichenstein said the Soviets use disinformation with great skill and sophistication. He urged The American Legion to alert Americans to the Soviet menance and encourage educators to provide objective courses on the nature and threat of communism.

Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Robert C. McFarlane stated that the United States is in the best position in years to negotiate with the Soviet Union because America's position in the world has greatly improved in the past few years. This change has resulted from modernization of the U.S. armed forces, economic recovery, and overall improved conduct of U.S. foreign policy. In the future, the United States must maintain a credible nuclear deterrent triad. Additionally, there must be a continuing U.S. commitment to assist economic development of third world countries in order to prevent increasing Soviet influence in the developing world.

General Larry D. Welch, Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force presented a very comprehensive discussion of key personnel, equipment, and doctrine issues facing the U.S. Air Force today and those anticipated in the future.

During the afternoon, the joint session continued with a speech by Ambassador Edward L. Rowny, Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State for Arms Control Matters. Ambassador Rowny emphasized President Reagan's policy that any nuclear arms control agreement must be equitable and verifiable and contribute to stability. Ambassador Rowny stated we are moving to a new strategic relationship based more on defensive systems and less on offensive systems. The Soviets have clearly identified their negotiating objective as being the "non-militarization of outer space." Thus, the Soviets may balk at any reductoin of offensive weapons until they are satisfied on space weapons.

The National Security Commission met separately for the remainder of the afternoon on March 4. The speaker for the separate session was Mr. John Kester, former Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense in the Carter Administration who

spoke on the need to return to conscription as the primary source of manpower for the armed forces, a position long held by the American Legion.

The Wednesday morning session opened with an address by Dr. Gerold Yonas, acting Deputy Director of the Strategic Defense Initiative. Dr. Yonas breifed the Commission on the several areas of research that SDI was examining and emphasized that as of this time, the effort only involved research. Following this briefing, the National Security Commission considered several resolutions properly referred. Action taken on the resolutions is listed below.

Resolution 25 (OK).—Commissary privileges for active Reserve and National Guard members. Hold for further study.

Resolution 338 (IL).—National Guard and Reserve Forces. Receive and record.

Resolution 349 (IL).—National Guard and Reserve Forces (inactive duty retirement points). Reject.

Resolution 207 (IL).—National Commander's Blood Donor Awards. Approved as amended and referred to Internal Affairs Commission.

Resolution 43 (FL).—Reform of Habeas Corpus Proceedings. Approved.

Following the consideration of resolutions, the Commission received a briefing from the staff on the proposed pre-convention trip associated with the upcoming 67th National Convention in New Orleans. The plan is to begin the trip at Pensacola Naval Air Station on August 22. All participants would be expected to arrive in Pensacola on August 21. The trip would involve two nights in motels, and would include a stop at Keesler Air Force Base prior to returning to New Orleans on August 23. The Commission was also given an update on plans for the consideration of Resolutions at the Convention.

No other business was conducted.

*National Executive Committee, May 6–7, 1985.*—An executive section of the National Security Commission met in Room 204 of the Indiana Department Headquarters on May 5–6, 1985, to consider resolutions properly before it, and to discuss other business.

Four resolutions were considered at this meeting of the National Security Commission. Out of this total, one was recommended for approval, one was recommended for further study, one was to be received and recorded. The resolution on Reform of Habeas Corpus proceedings, recommended for rejection, was originally recommended for approval at the 1985 Washington Conference. Based on an opinion rendered by the National Judge Advocate, the National Security Commission reconsidered and found it not to be germane to the principles of The American Legion.

The American Legion has been a member organization of the American Blood Commission since 1975. During the October 1984 term of the United States Supreme Court, an Amicus Curiae brief was filed by the American Blood Commission listing The American Legion as a member organization. The case is before the Supreme Court, No. 83-1925—Hillsborough County, Florida, et al., Appellants vs. Automated Medical Laboratories, Inc., Appellee. Since the brief mentions the name of The American Legion, a copy of the brief was shared with the National Judge Advocate, who in turn, suggested that the National Security Commission consider all the facts in this case and recommend a position to the National Executive Committee. A resolution was offered at the conclusion of this report which recommends a position.

Chairman Roger Munson made the following remarks:

"Ten years ago, one of my predecessors, the former Chairman and Chairman Emeritus of the National Security Commission Emmett G. Lenihan stood before the National Executive Committee, on the day after the fall of Saigon. I would like to quote from his remarks.

'We can no longer rely on the so-called detente, but we must be in a position to combat any threats of aggression or actual altercation; so that he can say to the Congress and to the members of both political parties, quit squabbling about domestic and foreign affairs in a partisan manner, and work together in order that this Nation has the type of a foreign policy and domestic policy that we all have a right to expect.' "

At this moment, the Congress of the United States is engaged in cutting the Defense Budget in the name of reducing budget deficits. The people who contend that the deficit cannot be reduced without cutting the defense budget are really saying one of two things:

(1) They don't wish to reduce the deficit without cutting defense; or

(2) Even though they don't wish to cut defense while reducing the budget deficit, there are other people who must agree on the issue, who are not as well informed or public spirited as they, and they don't wish to cut the deficit without cutting defense. (The real meaning of this is that it is politically impossible to reduce the deficit without reducing defense.)

Neither of these two propositions is true. There are really only two issues here. The first issue is whether the budget proposed by the administration is providing as much defense as this nation requires. The second is whether the necessary defense could be purchased with fewer dollars.

Interestingly, almost no one who wants to cut the defense budget will say publicly that they also want weaker forces. They wrongly assume that stretching out purchases will save money in the long term. But a fighter plane scheduled to enter the Air Force in 1988 cannot go to war in 1986 if required to do so.

When people say that the same forces can be provided more cheaply, they are really talking about waste. Certainly there is some waste in the defense budget, just as there is waste in any human undertaking. It seems to us that the Secretary of Defense has taken the necessary steps to identify and reduce waste in his department, without impairing the defenses of the nation. Setting dollar limits will not make the program more efficient and reduce waste without cutting strength.

There is waste because of decisions made by people who have differing views on efficiency. The budget making process now underway will not produce more defense for less money. If the defense budget is cut, it will cut strength, not improve the system.

The 1985 edition of Soviet Military Power has been made available to you this morning. I urge you to read it, digest it, and then ask yourselves the simple question: Is our nation adequately defended at this moment? If your answer is no—then I urge you to communicate that fact tc your representatives in Washington. The people who appropriate money for defense listen to us, as individuals and as members of The American Legion. Our nation deserves our support."

### National Security-Foreign Relations Division

Responsibility for the daily conduct of the extensive work of The American Legion in defense and foreign policy is assigned to the National Security-Foreign Relations Division located in the Washington, D.C. office. The staff of the division consists of: G. Michael Schlee, Director; James B. Hubbard, Deputy Director; Harry E.B. Sullivan, Deputy Director for Foreign Relations; Spencer H. Leopard, Research Analyst; and secretary to the Director, Mrs. Denise Wilkins.

During the year, the combined Division has endeavored to not only fulfill its responsibility to implement the mandates and policies of The American Legion relating to national defense and foreign affairs, but to constantly expand and improve the ways and means of projecting our interest in these two important areas. The duties have consisted of answering correspondence; telephone inquiries; maintaining liaison with the Departments of Defense, State, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Transportation; the American National Red Cross; the American Blood Commission, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. These contacts related to a variety of matters, some of which involved members of the armed forces.

Liaison also is maintained with a host of military and quasi-military organizations with whom common goals are shared. Among these are: Reserve Officers Association; Air Force Association; Navy League and Association of the U.S. Army. Most importantly, the National Security-Foreign Relations Division provides a steady flow of information on defense matters to members of both commissions and the leadership at all levels of our organization. Writing and delivering speeches, preparing reports and testimony, is also a duty of the staff. Additionally, promotional material is prepared and distributed to support the five national programs in the national security field.

National Security-Foreign Relations Bulletin: While continual use is made of all national publications, such as Advance, The American Legion Magazine and the American Legion News Service, the principal means for distribution of factual information and program support in the fields of national defense and foreign affairs is the bi-monthly National Security-Foreign Relations Bulletin.

The 1,550 recipients of the Bulletin include: National Department officers; NECmen; Department Security and Foreign Relations chairmen; National and Committee leadership of the American Legion Auxiliary; National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions and Committees and many other interested Legionnaires. Excerpts from the numerous appearances of Legion representatives before the Committees of Congress are also featured in the Bulletin.

### Our Appreciation

*American Legion Auxiliary.*—We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the American Legion Auxiliary for its continued cooperation in support of the Legion's

defense programs and objectives. We express our deep thanks for their personal interest and involvement in the defense programs of the Legion.

The Legislative Division through its bulletin has provided excellent coverage of appearances of American Legion witnesses in support of positions adopted by the National Convention. We express our thanks to Mylio S. Kraja, Executive Director of the Washington Office; and to the Directors and members of their staffs of their respective Divisions for their valuable help. Gratitude is expressed to the Public Relations Division, who through the American Legion News Service has carried information on National Security and Foreign Relations to the members.

The National Security Division is indebted to our military liaison officers in the Departments of Defense, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard whose help has been invaluable in handling hundreds of requests from in-service personnel and assistance securing military speakers for various functions.

### Committee Reports

The following reports, received with grateful appreciation, were prepared under the leadership and guidance of the following Committee and Council chairmen: James E. Starr—Aerospace; Frank J. D'Amico—Defense Civil Preparedness; W. Dudley Robbins—Law and Order; William D. Horan—Merchant Marine; Donald D. Hildebrand—Military Affairs; David E. Munter—National Security Council, and John J. Wrenn—Naval Affairs.

## AEROSPACE COMMITTEE

JAMES E. STARR, Minnesota, *Chairman*

During the past year, the Aerospace Committee continued its efforts to ensure that the United States does not become a second-rate power in modern air power or advanced aerospace technology. The authority for the Committee's efforts are the resolutions adopted at the 66th National Convention. These policies are listed in the Summary of Proceedings section of that report. The effort to implement these positions requires both administrative and legislative activities.

*Legislative Activities.*—Implementation of these policies necessiates frequent correspondence and testimony to the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees of both the Senate and House in coordination with our Legislative Division. In addition to correspondence, the principal appearance was before the Senate Defense Appropriations subcommittee. Resolutions on aerospace were presented to the subcommittee in its consideration of Fiscal Year 1986 defense appropriations. Of particular emphasis was adequate provision for Operations and Maintenance funding, and the M-X missile.

*Civil Air Patrol.*—Pursuant to Resolution 14, adopted by the Denver National Convention, appropriate certificates have been prepared for Departments to recognize the outstanding CAP squadrons in their states. All Department Adjutants have been notified of the availability of the certificates and many requests have been received during this reporting period.

## DEFENSE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

FRANK J. D'AMICO, New York, *Chairman*

The American Legion continues to advocate adequate staffing, adequate budgeting and adequate technical and research support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In an era when Soviet civil defense efforts are far greater than those of the United States, it becomes imperative that planning for emergencies to include a nuclear exchange be enhanced.

Support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the civil defense program in general, stems from Resolution 399 passed by the 66th annual Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. The resolution calls for the public to be educated in the need for an adequate civil defense program by:

(1) Recognizing that civil defense in this nuclear age is as important as the weapons of war and that failure of the United States to have a credible civil defense program could lead to a miscalculation by any potential adversary;

(2) Giving increased funds, support and assistance to the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(3) Taking advantage of the current over-abundance of grant by stocking/restocking shelters and warehouses with survival food and plan to rotate those stocks when responding to requests for assistance to natural disasters around the world; and

(4) Reinitiating public and private works programs that will provide jobs while providing civilian protection to include underground and in-mountain facilities.

**Disaster Relief Understanding**

The role of Posts and Units in disasters of all types is spelled out in the Disaster Relief Understanding between The American Legion, the Auxiliary and the American National Red Cross, first established in 1926. The agreement, expanded to include the American Legion Auxiliary, was given a mass distribution to every Post and Unit. Presidents and Commanders alike are aware that this Understanding is merely a collection of words until it is put into action in their communities. Once disaster strikes, it is too late to identify facilities, train members or integrate Posts and Units into the over-all disaster relief operation.

Under the agreement's broad framework, Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units and Red Cross Chapters can work out cooperative preparedness and relief plans best suited to their respective areas. It outlines the uses of physical facilities and human resources of the Legion and the Auxiliary. The pact also spells out details of fund raising and clothing collection with which the leadership of each Post and Unit should be familiar. The agreement was updated during calendar year 1980 and the new agreement was signed by the National Commander.

**Blood Donor Activities**

The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary continue to be principal sources of supply for blood. Through our vast network of Posts and Units organized into Department programs, Legionnaires and Auxiliary members through a variety of programs continue to supply the blood needs, of their own members, hospitalized veterans and through cooperative agreements to patients in civilian hospitals. In this past year, the program has continued to grow.

*National Commander Awards.*—To stimulate activities on the part of Departments and Posts, annual awards are made by the National Commander. In the period from June 1, 1984 through May 31, 1985, 29 Departments of The American Legion actively participated in the Blood Donor program. This year, the criteria for the National Commander's Awards for Post and individual participation was based on Resolution 14, adopted at the Spring meeting, May 8-9, 1985 of the National Executive Committee. The resolution provides that departments be placed in one of five groups based on the size of the department, using criteria established by the Membership and Post Activities Committee. The winners for the 1984-85 Blood Donor Program are:

Category I—(more than 70,000 members).—Post participation: Florida. Individual participation: Illinois.

Category II—(40,000 to 69,999 members).—Post and individual participation: Nebraska.

Category III—(25,000 to 39,999 members).—Post and individual participation: Arizona.

Category IV—(10,000 to 24,999 members).—Post and individual participation: Montana.

Category V—(less than 10,000).—Post and individual participation: Rhode Island.

Each participating Department will receive a certificate of recognition signed by National Commander Clarence Bacon and National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle.

*Holiday Blood Drive.*—During the 1984 Holiday Season, American Leginnaires and members of the Auxiliary will be urged to give a gift of life—blood. For the past several Christmas seasons, demands for blood were exceptionally high while supplies were so critical that only emergency operations could be performed. Numerous Departments and Posts have actively publicized the "Holiday Blood Drive" noting that this was an opportunity to establish closer ties with the community.

The October 1983 edition of Advance featured a four-page insert which contained complete instructions on how to go about setting up a blood program sponsored by American Legion posts in a community. Copies of this insert were sent to all of the blood banks sponsored by the American Association of Blood Banks, the American Red Cross and the Council of Community Blood Centers. All of these blood banking facilities were notified of the interest of The American Legion in ensuring a safe, adequate supply of blood for the community.

### The American Blood Commission

During this past year, The American Legion has continued its participation as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Blood Commission. Established in 1975, the American Blood Commission is comprised of national organizations whose goal is the implementation of the National Blood Policy. The current designated representative of the American Blood Commission is Deputy Director James B. Hubbard, who currently serves as Vice President of the ABC board.

The American Blood Commission has been particularly valuable in disseminating information on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). This disease and its effect on the blood supply will be carefully monitored.

## LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE

W. DUDLEY ROBBINS, North Carolina, *Chairman*

The Law and Order Committee continued this year to emphasize crime prevention by promoting the distribution of the Crime Prevention booklet across the nation. Liaison was established with the National Crime Prevention Coalition in order to keep the committee up-to-date on the latest developments in the field of crime prevention.

American Legion Departments, Posts and individual citizens have been overwhelmingly responsive to the legion's Crime Prevention program. Requests for our booklet have come from state and local law enforcement officials; from senior citizen groups; from libraries; and from school children. This program is viable, ongoing and important to our National interest. The Law and Order Committee will continue to promote our goals in this area.

The 66th National convention adpoted Resolution 38 which reiterates and confirms our opposition to gun registration and harassment of law abiding gun owners and called upon Congress to cease pursuing enactment of such laws.

*Fire Protection/Prevention.*—The National Executive Committee authorized the beginning of an American Legion Fire Protection and Prevention program. An informational booklet on this subject will be published in the late summer of 1985.

*Youth Programs.*—The American Legion in its efforts to better educate our young people in regard to laws which govern our society, and the agencies which enforce those laws, has developed several programs which feature law enforcement training. At least ten Departments, in cooperation with state law enforcement agencies, sponsor youth programs designed to acquaint the participants with methods of basic law enforcement. The young people actually spend time with state troopers, at the various police academies, learning about such diverse subjects as traffic law, police, ethics, traffic control, unlawful drugs, court procedures and the responsibility of citizenship.

Our coloring poster, "Your Friend—the Policemen," continues to be a successful program. Well over 45,000 copies have been distributed to elementary school teachers and members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

## MERCHANT MARINE COMMITTEE

WILLIAM D. HORAN, New York, *Chairman*

Since its founding, The American Legion has realized the importance of a strong American merchant marine and the indispensable role of this "fourth arm of defense." Today, the everincreasing dependence of the U.S. economy on raw materials from Third World countries and overseas areas demand renewed efforts to build up our merchant fleet.

The privately owned, deep-draft fleet of the U.S. merchant marine totaled 631 vessels with a carrying capacity of about 23.1 million deadweight tons (dwt) on January 1, 1985, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime administration. The total comprised 492 ocean-going ships and 139 Great Lakes vessels.

Compared with March 1, 1983 totals, the number of ships in the U.S. ocean-going fleet decreased by 42 vessels and the fleet's carrying capacity by approximately 1.5 million deadweight tons.

As of January 1, 1985, 13 merchant ships totaling 633,600 dwt were under construction or on order in U.S. shipyards. The shipbuilding order book then consisted of seven tankers, two tug/barges, two containerships, 2 incineration ships and one dredge.

Retaining American merchant marine independence in supplying our economy and the added demands of military sealift, spurred this Committee's support for expanding our fourth arm of defense during the past year. Our effort to inform our membership, the general public and the Congress of our views were guided by the four resolutions which were unanimously adopted by the 64th National Convention.

*Maritime Power.*—Throughout our history, maritime power has been a key element in the growth and strength of America. Moreover, the new sealift demands of the United States Command makes the fourth arm of defense even more imperative in our strategic planning. We must rebuild our merchant marine if we are to maintain free use of the seas in the face of the challenge presented by Soviet sea power in every corner of the world.

The changes in National Maritime Policy now being implemented by the Reagan Administration have been noted. The Merchant Marine Committee intends to monitor these policy changes as they are implemented to ensure that the United States Merchant Marine is once again pre-eminent on the seas.

*National Maritime Day—1985.*—The Committee continues to support participation in the National Maritime Day to evoke public awareness of the need for a strong merchant fleet. Promotion of the annual event was done through distribution of a National Maritime Poster.

## MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DONALD D. HILDEBRAND, Tennessee, *Chairman*

During the year, your military Affairs Committee has directed its major efforts toward attaining and then maintaining a strong and modern United States armed force, second to none in the world. We believe the times deserve no less. Our activities have been guided by the resolutions adopted by the 66th National Convention and subsequent National Executive Committee action. Wide dissemination was given those resolutions to Congressional, government, military and industry leaders to inform them of our mandates for supporting a strong and modern military force and Reserves. A bound volume of the resolutions was presented to the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army, and to the Secretary of Defense.

*Press Conference/Legislation Activities.*—The staff has kept up-to-date by attending press conferences on various subjects of interest, including the press conference sponsored by the Atlantic Council on the Draft, several Congressional press conferences, and American Enterprise Institute sessions.

Through the Legislative Division, correspondence with Members of Congress and Congressional staff was initiated and followed through in other areas as follows: Armed Forces commissaries; military pay allowances; changes in retired pay programs, and educational incentives for Active and Reserve forces. Additionally, testimony was presented before the Senate and House Defense Appropriations Subcommittees in support of needed weapons systems and overall modernization of the force. Portions of that testimony are quoted for information:

"Thank you Mr. Chairman. We are pleased to be able once again to present the views of our 2.6 million members on the defense budget. In general, we feel that a minimum three percent real growth in defense spending, after inflation, is necessary to continue the rebuilding of our nation's defenses and the modernization of obsolete weapons systems. The United States is the leader of the free world, whether we like it or not. We, therefore, really have very limited choices in what we can do to reduce defense spending. The only realistic method by which the defense budget can be reduced is to limit the tasks assigned to the Armed Forces and we see no realistic way to accomplish this without completely alienating an important ally, or conceding an important area of the free world to the Soviet bloc. These alternatives are not acceptable to us as veterans nor do we believe them to be acceptable to the majority of the American people. Not protecting our interests would ultimately result in the world-wide erosion of freedom and democracy and the consequent control of most of the world's natural resources by totalitarian governments who seek to insure their own survival by military means. We believe this would cause a drastic change in American life which most citizens of this nation would find unacceptable.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to discuss several areas of importance to our members. When you consider the Fiscal Year 1986 defense budget, we would urge you to pay particular attention to these areas. Some are quite controversial; however, in our view, the inclusion of funds in the defense appropriations bill for these systems is absolutely necessary for deterrence, or should deterrence fail, for the protection of our combat soldiers, sailors, and airmen and population.

The first of these areas is the Strategic Defense Initiative. The Administration has requested $3.4 billion for research into some of the more promising areas of technological development. We note with interest that one of the more challenging areas of research is in the area of battle management. A sophisticated system must be developed which can receive input from perhaps thousands of sources, decide which targets are real and can be engaged, which weapon will engage them and then issue the commands to engage in the space of a few seconds. When one considers the possibility of a thousand or so warheads being launched simultaneously from the Soviet Union, the problem looks insurmountable. While we are not privy to the classified information necessary to authoritatively say that an effective battle management system is possible, we do have faith in the ability of American industry to rise to the occasion. Who would have thought twenty-five years ago that a television camera could be mounted in the nose of guided bomb?

Our purpose here today is not to attempt to refute every anti-Strategic Defense Initiative argument. Our purpose is to urge your support for a very important Initiative which will have the effect of raising the nuclear threshold and making our troubled world a safer place.

The Second area of concern to The American Legion is one that invariably raises the level of debate over the defense budget to a higher emotional level.

There is considerable evidence that the Soviet Union is continuing to test, produce and stockpile chemical weapons. They have also continued to train and equip specilized forces for the conduct of chemical warfare. The United States is only engaged in protection and the training necessary to defend from a chemical weapons attack.

The Institute for Defense Analysis recently concluded that since the United States had no retaliatory capability, a Soviet Commander would probably use chemical weapons as an integral part of his initial assault on Western Europe. He would have no incentive not to use them.

The Administration is requesting $1.3 billion to support the chemical warfare deterrence plan, first presented to Congress in 1982. As you are aware, that plan has three parts: continued research and development into defensive measures against chemical weapons; the destruction of obsolete chemical weapons; and the production of deterrent binary munitions which are safe to handle.

The largest portion of the funds are to be spent on additional purchases of protective masks, overgarments, detectors, and other material necessary to provide means of survival in a chemical environment for our Armed Forces. In addition, there is great concern that the Soviet Union has introduced new and unknown chemical agents into their inventory. There is also evidence that some of these unknown agents have been tested in actual combat operations in Afghanistan and Southeast Asia. The United States is not entirely certain that the protective devices currently available to our troops will protect the wearers from becoming casualties. Clearly, more research is needed to counter the new threats by buying new protective masks and filters and developing new detectors. Research funds are also needed to provide antidotes, decontamination equipment, and vaccines against chemical agents.

The second portion of the program involves the destruction of stocks of chemical munitions in the US arsenal which are unsafe or obsolete. Of the current stockpile, about 10% remains useful as a deterrent. This portion consists of both persistent and non-persistent nerve agent artillery shells and non-persistent nerve agent bombs. An additional 18% has some limited use. This portion consists of non-persistent nerve and blister agents in the form of small caliber artillery, mortars and spray tanks. The remaining 62% is of no use whatsoever to the military and should be destroyed. In late 1984, a panel of scientists recommended that the Army dispose of its stocks of M-55 rockets. These rockets are still in the inventory although no launcher exists for them any longer. The American Legion supports the fund request of $132 million to accomplish the destruction of these obsolete agents and their delivery systems.

The third portion of the program is the most controversial. It involves the purchase of a deterrent capability in the form of binary munitions in a quantity certain to prevent the Soviets from using their own considerable chemical capability against our troops, while at the same time announcing a no-first-use policy and continuing to negotiate a treaty banning these weapons from the world. The Administration has requested $207 million (or 16% of the total requirement for this program) for the production of binary weapons. The American Legion supports this request.

We can think of no better way to insure progress in arms control of chemical weapons than to provide an adequate deterrent capability, which we do not now have. There is no thought of matching the Soviet production capability bomb for bomb and shell for shell. As we understand it, only enough munitions will be pro-

duced to insure that the Soviets will think twice about their use. Likewise, we can think of no better method of production than the binary method. It separates the lethal agents into two harmless components. They will be stored and transported separately and would only be installed in delivery munitions upon the request of the Commander concerned and the order of the President.

Mr. Chairman, this program, if carried out in all its parts, insures that never again will American military storage depots contain lethal chemical munitions. Never again will lethal munitions be transported through U.S. cities, towns and port facilities, and never again will our combat forces be exposed to the dangers of handling lethal chemical munitions prior to actual use. At the same time, our forces will be provided with the necessary deterrent tools to help insure that these terrible weapons are never used by either side.

Another area which we would like to discuss briefly. The modernization of the US Strategic Triad is proceeding, thanks in no small part to the actions of this Subcommittee. We are pleased that the initial operational capability of the new Peacekeeper will be achieved in late 1986. The Navy will have eight new Ohio class ballistic missile submarines carrying Trident missiles at sea by the end of the calendar year 1985. In short, we are gratified by the progress made in a major modernization effort. We believe that the proof of the effectiveness of this effort is the Soviet presence at the renewed Arms Control Talks in Geneva.

Of particular concern to us is the future of the Peacekeeper missile which has the support of three Presidents and bipartisan support in the Congress. The Soviets are sitting down with U.S. negotiators in Geneva to begin new arms talks. If the U.S. Congress fails to fund the procurement of additional missiles, the position of our negotiators will be seriously eroded, and the Soviets will have no incentive to make any concessions.

In the words of the President, "The time has come to place this issue behind us. While we have debated the merits of the Peacekeeper program, the Soviets have deployed over 600 Peacekeeper type missiles. If we are to move toward an equitable treaty in Geneva, procurement of 100 Peacekeeper missiles must continue."

There are two subjects we would like to discuss in the area of military personnel. First, it appears that there is again some sentiment among some members of Congress to alter the military retirement system. The American Legion opposes these efforts.

Military retired pay is not a pension, it is not overly generous nor does it enrich its beneficiaries. Retired pay is an integral part of the total military compensation system which acts as a management tool which allows only 13 percent of the best qualified to continue on active duty in order to maintain a young and vigorous force. Overall, we find the current system to be addressing the retention needs of the Armed Services, and to be reasonably equitable to the members of the Service who retire after a full career in the Armed Forces.

Military members are not retired in the traditional sense of the term; they retain military status, are subject to the uniform code of military justice, restricted to job/pay limitations in retirements and are subject to recall to active duty. With respect to this latter point, Department of Defense mobilization plans include the recall of about 61 percent of retirees, thousands of whom already have their recall orders in hand. Indeed, the Supreme Court has characterized military retired pay as "reduced pay for reduced levels of military service."

Unlike civilian plans, the military retirement system is not an old age pension plan. In form and structure, it contains none of the features commonly found in old-age maintenance plans. There is no vesting, no capital accumulations, no stock options and no supplemental thrift provisions. It does not look or operate like a pension plan because its purpose—to sustain military readiness—requires it to provide a level of compensation that will ensure an orderly flow of officers and enlisted personnel through the ranks of an essentially closed system.

The Grace Commission has asserted, erroneously, that the military retirement system is six times more costly than the private sector plans. When analyzed in percentages of pay, the military retirement system costs only 1.2 to 1.5 times more than the average private sector plan. Even critics of the military retirement system, including the Grace Commission, have concluded that military retirement should be better than private sector pension plans because of the unique nature of military service.

In a recent study, General Research Corporation found that the only civilian jobs which come close to being comparable to the Armed Forces were police, firemen, prison guards, air traffic controllers and FBI agents. The study found that when twenty year retirement systems were compared, at various pre-retirement levels, the military retiree was drawing a significantly lower retired annuity than any of

the other professions. In the $50,000 per year pre-retirement salary range, the high retirement annuity was $2500 per month; the median annuity was $1958 per month; and the lowest annuity for other professions was $1665 per month. FBI, Secret Service agents and air traffic controllers draw a monthly annuity of $2083. The military retirement check for the same pre-retirement salary range was $1517. The same general trend holds true for the $25,000 pre-retirement level and the $35,000 pre-retirement level.

The military member forfeits a considerable degree of personal freedom, and undergoes many personal and family disruptions, as well as being subject to high risk situations. Overall, it is an irrevocable, unlimited liability contract with the Government, a situation not found in the civilian sector. For these reasons, among others, it has not been possible to simply adopt civilian pay models. In fact, there are so many basic differences between the military environment and typical civilian employment that unique approaches regarding the compensation of military personnel have been necessary.

The American Legion believes that the current military system is working and we consider it a pillar in the total compensation arena to support readiness. To remove this pillar for the sole purpose of reducing costs would seriously disrupt force management and thus would reduce readiness. It should be noted that recent surveys list military retirement as third among service member's reasons for reenlisting the first time.

The relative value, measured in real dollars, of the current system because of loss of COLAs, is less than it was four years ago. Despite this, the population of military retirees and the costs have stabilized and the cost of future retirees is being funded on an accrual basis in the current defense budget.

The American Legion recognizes that military missions change, thereby triggering a change in force management goals which in turn require review of total compensation. With this is mind, we ask that when Congress considers fine tuning the military retirement system, they consider the following principles embodied in our resolution 131, adopted at our 66th National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah:

(1) The retirement system must be fair to both the service members and the taxpayer; it must be adequate to attract but primarily to retain the number of quality and experienced personnel required to perform the Services' missions;

(2) The system must be stable to permit the individual Service member to satisfactorily plan for the future; however, recognizing that future changes may be necessary, these changes should apply to new Service entrants while at the same time honoring commitments to those already retired;

(3) The retirement annuity should be indexed to protect its future purchasing power; the same index should apply to all forms of service retirement and the survivor benefits based on the retired annuity;

(4) The retirement system must include an optional method for a retiree to provide for survivors; and

(5) The retirement system must provide for equitable treatment for all Service members entitled to the retirement benefit.

Mr. Chairman, we are again concerned this year over efforts to close down or severely restrict the military commissary system. the commissary mission statement says that "Commissaries are an institutional economic benefit in the form of nonpay compensation provided to military personnel and their dependents. They are a proven, efficient method of compensating military personnel. Commissaries sell groceries and household items at the lowest practicable price, in facilities comparable to commercial food outlets. The stores are operated to preserve and foster the significant value of the benefit to the economic and psychological well-being of the military community.

All this talk of closing commissaries, cutting retirement benefits and other so-called cost saving measures is having a very negative effect on the morale of our service people. Your support for our men and women in uniform through the approval of the commissary appropriation for FY 1986 is urgently requested.

Mr. Chairman, we have provided to the Committee the key resolutions relevant to the security of the United States passed by our National Convention in Salt Lake City. We respectfully request they be made part of the record."

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

DAVID E. MUNTER, Illinois, *Chairman*

The American Legion over the past year has continued to support the concept of Universal Military Training and the Selective Service System by applying the following principles:

(1) Maintenance of the Selective Service System as a viable preparedness measure; (2) the re-establishment of a completely operational Selective Service System in compliance with existing law, including Presidential induction authority; (3) retention of the System even when in a standby basis, supported by an active state Selective Service headquarters with a state director in charge who is responsible for the maintenance of military mobilization plans and operations for the state; (4) a local board in a registrant's own community with the responsibility for determining his availability and the issuance of induction orders rather than depend on an untried, centralized computer system; (5) training of a pool of Reserve and National Guard personnel in Selective Service Manpower Mobilization procedures, and a Selective Service System as an independent agency; (6) Congress implement a system of Universal Military Training that will require every able-bodied man between the ages of 18 and 23 to serve a period of military training; and (7) the President and Congress provide the necessary directions and budgetary support to the Selective Service System so the mandates of the Military Selective Service Act are enforced so the Selective Service System is able to meet the manpower requirements of the Department of Defense when called upon.

### Reserve Officers Training Corps Program

The historic support of The American Legion for a strong and viable Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) was reaffirmed by Resolution 367-76, adopted at our 59th National Convention, and Resolution 474 adopted by the 64th National Convention. We resolved to staunchly support both the Reserve Officers Training Corps and the Junior ROTC as exemplifying strong links in the traditional role of the citizen-soldier in this country and as one of the most outstanding programs for producing military officers and future leaders of our nation. We also strongly recommend that all colleges and university students take advantage of the tremendous opportunity for training, leadership and achievement which the ROTC represents.

*Department and Post Activity.*—Departments having ROTC units supported ROTC programs by either awarding or encouraging Posts under their jurisdiction to award and participate in The American Legion's ROTC Medal program. Response to this program has been outstanding. During the period from July 1, 1984 to June 30, 1985, 1,702 medals have been awarded to deserving ROTC and Junior ROTC candidates. Presentations of medals were made to ROTC units in 45 states and the District of Columbia.

*Paul H. Griffith ROTC Trophy.*—The National Executive Committee at their October 1975 meeting approved Resolution 21, which established the Paul H. Griffith Trophy for the ROTC program in their states during the year. The trophy honors the memory of Past National Commander Paul H. Griffith, who served as an Assistant Secretary of Defense, and throughout his lifetime maintained an active interest and participation in our nation's defense.

Criterion for judging the winner of the trophy is based on the Department giving the greatest degree of support to the ROTC programs to include, but not be limited to, the number of medals presented and Legion participation in award day ceremonies this year.

## NAVAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JOHN J. WRENN, Massachusetts, *Chairman*

Guided by resolutions adopted at the 66th National Convention, the Naval Affairs Committee has worked to strengthen the U.S. Navy during the past year. We begin with the premise that sea lanes are the life lines of America, both in peacetime and war. Additionally, with the advent of President Reagan's election, the United States entered a period of more forceful diplomacy. The United States is no longer hesitant about sending powerful signals to aggressors that we will not stand idly by and watch while they conduct violent takeovers of legitimate governments, particularly when those takeovers are contrary to the national interests of the United States.

This new diplomacy requires a more mobile, more flexible and more capable armed force; in particular, an expanded United States Navy.

The Secretary of Defense is faced with the decision on how best to expand the strength of the Navy in a fairly rapid manner. Expansion means an increased number of combatant ships and the choices are relatively limited. The Navy can build new ships, a time consuming process, or it may opt to remove ships from the "mothball" fleet, a process that will take substantialy less time than the new construction. We suggested that both options be undertaken simultaneously. In the short term, modernizing older ships with updated communications, command and control equipment and modern weapons systems is the only reasonable option currently available until such time as new ships are built and deployed.

We are pleased that soon our fleet will be increased to 600 ships. Over the long term this will require 20 new ships per year to modernize the fleet. Moreover, developments in the Persian Gulf and deployment of a naval task force there highlights the imperativeness of "getting on" with a vigorous shipbuilding program.

The United States Coast Guard has faced the same rising costs associated with inflation as the other services. The problem of funding has become so crucial in the Coast Guard that this service is barely able to perform its statutory mission and in some cases, has had to reduce some of its enforcement activities to stay within the funding limitations imposed by Congress. At the Seattle Convention, the delegates adopted a resolution calling for adequate financial support for the Coast Guard.

Adequate funding must be provided to the Navy for the continued development of its forces on and under the sea, and in the air, so that strong, modern, effective sea power can be effectively deployed with the forces of other services. The Naval Affairs Committee will continue to direct its efforts toward this goal.

# PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMISSION

WILLIAM M. DETWEILER, Louisiana, *Chairman*

Hubert R. Dagley II, Indiana, *Director*

The Public Relations Commission overseas and coordinates all activities and programs designed to publicize the work of The American Legion among members and non-members alike. Positioning The American Legion properly and accurately before these two "publics" is the established goal of the Public Relations Commission and its staff in Indianapolis and Washington, D.C., and significant progress has been made during the last year in achieving that goal.

## Staff Coordination

The Commission has emphasized its role as a service arm of the organization by increasing cooperation with the program divisions of The American Legion in producing materials to publicize programs and activities. Since the last report, the Public Relations Division has continued its work in supporting the National Internal Affairs Division in support of The American Legion Good Neighbor Awards program and the National Leadership Workshops and with the National Americanism Division in developing a "Flag Etiquette" slide show to be distributed to schools by local American Legion Posts. Other divisions receiving audiovisual support from the Public Relations staff were: National Security and Foreign Relations, Children and Youth and the National Membership Division.

## Special Projects

During the past year, several special projects were accomplished by the Public Relations staff in Indianapolis and Washington, D.C. The highlight of special projects was the production of a booklet entitled: "The Aging Veteran: Uncounted Costs, Unkept Promises?" Produced in cooperation with the staff of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and the Veterans Planning and Coordinating Committee, the booklet described the impact on each state of potential reductions in the VA budget.

The booklets were distributed to all United States Senators and Representatives, state governors, key syndicated columnists, key Legionnaires, 1,750 daily newspapers, 1,200 television stations, and 750 weekly newspapers with circulations in excess of 10,000.

Emphasis on audiovisual productions continued during 1984-85 with programs on the 50th anniversary of Boys State, oratorical contest training, television commercial in support of Direct Membership Solicitations, television and radio public service announcements concerning several Legion concerns and extensive support of the 1985 national convention.

For the second year The American Legion entry into the "Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade" was coordinated by the Public Relations staff. The "Wonderful World of Disney" theme for the 1985 parade was a natural to highlight the Children and Youth Concerns of The American Legion. The float was built around the concept of "A Safe and Secure Childhood" and featured characters from the children's classic "Winnie the Pooh."

The parade itself was carried on 239 television stations in America, 5,000 cable television systems, 78 television stations in Canada, four television stations in Australia, one television station in the Philippines. Neilsen ratings indicated some 30-35 million people viewed the parade.

## Communication Efforts

The American Legion News Service (ALNS) mailing list was expanded in January to include free distributions to all U.S. Senators and Congressmen, Governors, VA hospitals and VA Regional Offices, along with Vietnam Veterans Outreach Centers.

Now reaching more than 15,000 individuals, ALNS allows wide distribution of American Legion news and pictures in a timely manner.

A second printing of the Public Relations Handbook, The American Legion Speaker's Guide and the National Commander's Issues Briefing Book were among publications distributed to departments and other key Legion leaders in the past twelve months.

### Awards

The 1985 National Commander's Public Relations Award went to ABC Sports for its coverage of the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles. The award was accepted by Donna DeVarona, former Olympic swimming champion and a member of the ABC Sports broadcast team. The award was presented during the annual Washington Conference.

Timely and effective speaker support for the National Commander and other Legion officers continue to be a major endeavor for the Public Relations staff. At the same time, suggested speeches for patriotic holidays and other special days, along with specially prepared holiday artwork and cooperative advertising slicks, continue to be made available to all members.

### Challenges

The 1984–85 Legion year has been one of reassessment, challenge and thoughtful planning to carry the National Public Relations Commission and its staff to the forefront for the 1980s.

During the year, a solid link between the Public Relations Commission and its staff with American Legion officers at all levels and with members of national commissions has been established. This link will allow even more progress toward letting people know more about The American Legion and its many programs.

With expanding technologies and creative responses to a myriad of challenges, the National Public Relations Commission and staff look forward to meeting the challenge of the future.

# THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE COMMISSION

MILFORD A. FORRESTER, South Carolina, *Chairman*

DANIEL S. WHEELER, Indiana. *Publisher/Editor-in-Chief*

The American Legion Magazine in 1985 has continued to march onward and upward to meet its mandated destiny as "one of the enduring monuments of The American Legion."

The major objectives of the Magazine for 1984 have been achieved in grand style, and the 1985 goals are well on the way to completion. The Magazine's new identity, "The Magazine for a Strong America," has graphically emerged from an overall plan to reshape and re-invigorate the Legion's first line of communication with its readers and the public.

In May, James N. Sites stepped down as publisher/editor-in-chief and was replaced by his assistant publisher/editor, Daniel S. Wheeler. Wheeler is continuing the revitalizing project begun by Sites.

### Editorial Content

Editorial content has received a dramatic shot in the arm by increased emphasis in covering leading issues of major public concern, involving public figures of the highest stature. Addressing the important issues of our time in interviews and by-lined articles during the past year have been Presidents Reagan, Carter, Ford and Nixon; U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick; Chief Justice Warren Burger; Secretary of State George Shultz; Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger; FBI Director William Webster; Admiral Hyman Rickover; former treasury Secretary William Simon; CIA Director William Casey; JCS Chairman General John Vessey; Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige and others.

A broad range of other editorial objectives has also been achieved, including expansion of the Legion News section. The hard work and accomplishments of Posts and Legionnaires are recognized monthly through such features as "Post of the Month," "Legionnaire of the Month" and the new "Legionnaires in Action" column. Other new features which have developed a loyal following are "Defense Issues," "Health" and "Travel."

The goal to upgrade the Magazine's writing standards by bringing in leading U.S. authors is already paying off. The respected Writer's Digest this year ranks The American Legion Magazine 12th as a quality market for national writers, compared to the Magazine's position of No. 28 last year and No. 35 in 1983. The Audit Bureau of Circulations ranks the Magazine 22 of 145 leading U.S. Magazines in total paid circulation, exceeding such newstand mainstays as U.S. News & World Report, Sports Afield, Vogue and Esquire. In Folio's 1985 top 10 "fastest growing consumer magazines by total revenue in the $10 to $15 million category," the Magazine ranked fourth.

### Graphic Appearance and Advertising

But excellent editorial content is only one key to success. Readers must be visually lured into the Magazine. This is where the goal to redesign the Magazine came in. A top notch art editor was added to the staff, and the Magazine's appearance underwent glowing changes almost overnight. The visual impact of the Magazine has never been higher. Added color photography in every issue makes it increasingly enticing to pick up and read.

Concurrent with efforts to strengthen editorial content and design has been the continuing goal to broaden the Magazine's advertising base. Direct-mail solicitation of advertisers continues to attract some new advertising revenue, but the breakthrough is far from complete. VETCOM, Inc. has joined Robert Redden Associates,

Inc. as the publisher's representatives in the Magazine's expanded search for advertising, including defense contractors and suppliers to military bases.

**Looking Ahead**

Looking ahead to the remainder of 1985 and into 1986, The American Legion Magazine Commission is enthusiastic and confident of the Magazine's future. The printing operation has been moved from Atlanta, Georgia to Lincoln, Nebraska, in order to receive better printing capabilities at equal or even less cost. Staff vacancies have been filled with team players ready to roll up their sleeves and get on with the job at hand. The only unfinished business is for the Magazine to gain more quality advertisements to enhance revenue and appearance.

Considering that the Magazine's readership includes 2.6 million Legionnaires as well as an estimated 6 million more friends, relatives and associates of Legionnaires; that it reaches most of the 1 million members of the American Legion Auxiliary, and that it is regularly distributed to all 535 members of Congress and thousands of other leaders in business, government and the press, it is evident that The American Legion Magazine reaches a cohesive segment of American public opinion that can significantly influence national attitudes on major issues—an appeal of no small import to prospective and current advertisers alike.

The American Legion Magazine Commission recognizes the feeling of kinship that should prevail between Legionnaires and the Magazine. The Magazine belongs to each Legionnaire and what the Magazine publishes should reflect the mandates of the organization and its continued service to the rank-and-file Bluecappers. It's a tall order, but with the support and advice of each and every Legionnaire, it's a goal that can be achieved.

# VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

W.F. LENKER, South Dakota, *Chairman*

R.E. LYNGH, Colorado, *Director*

The Salt Lake City National Convention and the Fall and Spring meetings of the National Executive Committee have approved programs expressed in resolutions submitted to those bodies through the Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

The following report covers the activities of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and its staff during the year ending June 30, 1985. The first section of the report describes the action taken on all resolutions assigned to the Commission for action and consideration, and the status shown as of June 30, 1985, the date of this report.

Beginning with the 1984 National Convention, the Commission received a total of 111 resolutions for appropriate action and consideration. There follows a breakdown of these resolutions by source and type:

| | |
|---|---|
| From the 1984 National Convention | 89 |
| Approved resolutions | 48 |
| Referred resolutions | 41 |
| From the National Executive Committee | 12 |
| Approved at the meeting October 10-11, 1984 | 3 |
| Approved at the meeting May 8-9, 1985 | 9 |
| From the National Adjutant ("register resolutions") | 10 |

The status of the 111 resolutions as of the end of the report period is set forth below, beginning with those covering the 1984 National Convention, followed by those presented and referred by the National Executive Committee and those register matters from each of the National Executive Committee meetings.

## 1984 National Convention Approved Resolutions

### Policy

*Resolution No. 51* (Hawaii).—Urge the Veterans Administration to provide career-conditioned status to certain employees in the Readjustment Counseling Service Program.

The Director forwarded a letter and copy of this resolution to the Administrator of Veterans affairs on December 11, 1984, and requested comment and update.

*Resolution No. 81* (Tennessee).—The American Legion Policy on providing certain benefit payments separate from those payable to disabled veterans.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject and requested necessary action by taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

*Resolution No. 83* (Tennessee).—Urging the expansion of the Veterans Administration's Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers Program (GRECC).

This resolution was satisfied for the most part, with the passage of Public Law 98-528, approved October 19, 1984. In addition, the Deputy Director, when appearing before House Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 20, 1985 and the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 21, 1985, informed the Committees of the Legion's views on this subject. On May 2, 1985, the Deputy Director also appeared before the HUD-Independent Agencies, Committee on Appropriations to reiterate the Legion's views.

*Resolution No. 105* (North Dakota).—Urge the Congress to provide sufficient VA health care facilities for the treatment and care of the nonservice-connected disabilities of war veterans.

The Deputy Director appeared before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 20, 1985, and the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 21, 1985, to present the views of the Legion regarding this resolution.

*Resolution No. 108* (North Dakota).—Urge the President of the United States and the Congress to provide full funding for all veterans programs.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on November 14, 1984. In addition, the Deputy Director appeared before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 20, 1985; the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 21, 1985; and HUD-Independent Agencies, Committee on Appropriations on May 2, 1985 to express the views of the Legion on this subject.

*Resolution No. 110* (North Dakota).—Oppose any and all recommendations of the Presidential Task Force that would eliminate or curtail veterans benefits or hospital care and treatment.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on November 14, 1984. In addition, the Deputy Director appeared before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 20, 1985, and the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 21, 1985 to express the views of the Legion on this subject.

*Resolution No. 188* (Pennsylvania).—Oppose OPM/OMB proposal to implement reduction in VA DM&S grade GS/GM 11-15 position categories covered under titles 38 & 5 USC for Fiscal Year 1985 through 1989.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on November 14, 1984. The National Commander appeared before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on September 18, 1984 to express the Legion's views on this matter. The Deputy Director appeared before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on February 21, 1985 and May 7, 1985; the House Veterans Affairs Committee on February 20, 1985; and the Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies on May 2, 1985, to express the views of The American Legion on this subject.

*Resolution No. 275* (Wisconsin).—The American Legion Policy on National Health Insurance.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

*Resolution No. 277* (Wisconsin).—The American Legion Policy on "Mainsteaming Medical Services to the Veterans."

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

*Resolution No. 289* (Missouri).—Rename the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, the "John J. Pershing Veterans Administration Medical Center."

This resolution has been satisfied with the passage of PL 98-588, approved October 30, 1984.

*Resolution No. 346* (Illinois).—Support legislation so as to make the Veterans Administration an Executive Department of the Federal Government.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on November 14, 1984. The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position on this subject and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

*Resolution No. 348* (Illinois).—Oppose any proposal that would consolidate or centralize the operations of the Veterans Administration Regional Offices.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on November 14, 1984. The Director submitted testimony to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on May 22, 1985. In addition, the Deputy Director appeared before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on February 20, 1985; the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on February 21, 1985; and the Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies on May 2, 1985, to express the Legion's views.

*Resolution No. 422* (California).—Urges Congress to adequately fund the Veterans Administration Health Care System construction program.

The Deputy Director appeared before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on February 20, 1985 and the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on February 21, 1985 and May 7, 1985 to express the Legion's views. In addition, on May 2, 1985, the Deputy Director appeared before the Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies.

*Resolution No. 423* (California).—Oppose any Administrative or Legislative proposal to reduce the payment of any other Federal benefit by offsetting VA compensation payments made to service-connected disabled veterans.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on November 14, 1984. In addition, the Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

*Resolution No. 424* (California).—Oppose legislation providing for third party reimbursement of the cost of medical care provided by the Veterans Administration to veterans who are eligible for and apply for such care.

The Deputy Director appeared before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on February 20, 1985 and the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on February 21, 1985 and May 7, 1985 to express the Legion's views. In addition, on May 2, 1985, the Deputy Director appeared before the Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies.

*Resolution No. 528* (Iowa).—The American Legion Policy on Agent Orange.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on November 14, 1984.

*Resolution No. 529* (Iowa).—The American Legion Policy on Radiation Exposure Cases.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on November 14, 1984.

*Resolution No. 530* (Iowa).—Urges that radiation exposure cases be entitled to medical treatment on a presumptive basis.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on November 14, 1984.

*Resolution No. 542* (Michigan).—Urge the VA to plan and develop a comprehensive health care program and related services for the aging veteran.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on November 14, 1984. In addition, the Deputy Director appeared before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on February 20, 1985, and the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on February 21, 1985 to express the Legion's views.

*Resolution No. 543* (Michigan).—Oppose those reorganization plans that would transfer from the Veterans Administration sole jurisdiction of any veterans benefits and service programs.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on November 14, 1984. The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of the Legion's views on this matter.

*Resolution No. 57* (Colorado).—Urges the Congress in funding VA health care programs to assign a high priority to the VA Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Programs.

This resolution was satisfied, for the most part, with the passagfe of Public Law 98–528, approved October 19, 1984.

*Resolution No. 558* (Colorado).—Urges that veterans compensation, pension and readjustment allowances not be considered as benefits and entitlements, but shall be considered as rights.

This resolution required no legislative consideration. We have, however, requested the Legislative Division to remain alert to any action on the part of the Executive Branch or of any legislative proposal that would give effect to the resolution.

**National Cemeteries**

*Resolution No. 103* (North Dakota).—The American Legion Policy on improving the National Cemetery System and death and burial benefits for veterans.

The Deputy Director submitted testimony to the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on March 4, 1985 to express The American Legion's views on this subject.

*Resolution No. 403* (Maryland).—American Legion assistance to States seeking matching cemetery grants.

Internal documents have been distributed by the Director informing Officers of The American Legion and others of procedures and initiatives in this regard.

**Medical and Hospitals**

*Resolution No. 199* (Ohio).—Support legislation to provide that prescriptions written by non-VA physicians shall be honored by the VA for those veterans suffering from service-connected disabilities.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

*Resolution No. 207* (Ohio).—Urge Congress to authorize adequate funding for the Veterans Administration medical research programs.

The Deputy Director appeared before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on February 20, 1985, and the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on February 21, 1985 to present the Legion's views on this subject.

*Resolution No. 309* (Minnesota).—Oppose imposition of a User Fee on veteran patients and unjustified restrictions on beneficiary travel.

This resolution was presented to the President by the National Commander on November 14, 1984. The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committee of our views.

*Resolution No. 313* (Minnesota).—Support legislation to amend title 38, USC, section 5031, to permit States to receive VA assistance for the acquisition and rehabilitation of certain facilities.

This resolution was satisfied with the passage of Public Law 98–528, approved October 19, 1984.

*Resolution No. 419* (Philippine Islands).—Support legislation to restore the grants-in-aid program and nursing home care to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in the Philippines.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of the Legion's views.

*Resolution No. 540* (Michigan).—Support an annual review and revision of the rates of reimbursement by the Veterans Administration for the care provided veterans in State Veterans Homes.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of the Legion's views.

**Claims and Rating**

*Resolution No. 32* (North Carolina).—Support legislation to amend 38 USC 110 to provide that a disability rated at or above a certain evaluation for 10 or more years shall be protected, except when it is shown that such rating was based upon fraud.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of the Legion's views.

*Resolution No. 33* (North Carolina).—Sponsor and support legislation to amend 38 USC 314(k) to include the loss of one lung or loss of one kidney to the list of anatomical loss or loss of use disabilities.

H.R. 1488 was introduced on March 7, 1985, at the request of The American Legion.

*Resolution No. 82* (Tennessee).—Sponsor and support legislation to increase the present burial plot allowance for veterans from $150 to $250.

H.R. 1486 was introduced on March 7, 1985, at the request of The American Legion.

*Resolution No. 84* (Tennessee).—Support legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, so as to waive the one-year presumptive period, and the one-year limit on retroactive compensation payments to Vietnam veterans with disabilities related to Agent Orange.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of the Legion's views.

*Resolution No. 205* (Ohio).—Sponsor and support legislation to amend title 38, USC, so as to provide a special pension program for veterans of World War I.

H.R. 1484 was introduced on March 7, 1985, at the request of The American Legion.

*Resolution No. 206* (Ohio).—Amend section 314, title 38, United States Code, to provide a two-year presumptive period for psychosis in the case of a veteran who served 90 days or more during a period of war.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of the Legion's views.

*Resolution No. 223* (Massachusetts).—Sponsor and support legislation to provide that compensation received from work incentive programs shall not be counted as income for pension purposes.

H.R. 1489 was introduced on March 7, 1985, at the request of The American Legion. In addition, the Deputy Director appeared before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on May 17, 1985.

*Resolution No. 276* (Wisconsin).—Sponsor and support legislation to amend title 38, USC, chapter 15 to further improve the disability and death pension program for veterans and their dependents.

H.R. 1503 was introduced on March 7, 1985, at the request of The American Legion.

*Resolution No. 347* (Illinois).—Support legislation to amend section 411, 38, USC, so as to increase the monthly rates of dependency and indemnity compensation.

This resolution was satisfied, for the most part, with the passage of Public Law 98–543, approved October 24, 1984.

*Resolution No. 442* (Georgia).—Sponsor and support legislation to restore the payment of burial allowance; and to increase the burial allowance for veterans to $400.

H.R. 1485 was introduced on March 7, 1985, at the request of The American Legion.

*Resolution No. 443* (Georgia).—Support legislation to amend section 314, 38, USC, to increase the monthly rates of disability compensation.

This resolution was satisfied, for the mot part, with the passage of Public Law 98–543, approved October 24, 1984.

*Resolution No. 479* (Virginia).—Sponsor and support legislation to provide service connection for Lupus Erythematosis becoming manifest to a degree of 10 percent or more within one year from the date of separation from a period of war service.

H.R. 1490 was introduced on March 7, 1985, at the request of The American Legion.

*Resolution No. 532* (Iowa).—Support legislation to provide for the payment of a clothing allowance to veterans with a compensable skin condition and for certain other compensable conditions when it is determined there is clothing spoilage.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of the Legion's views.

*Resolution No. 533* (Iowa).—Sponsor and support legislation to amend 38 USC, section 3203, so as to increase the amount of pension payable to certain veterans who are furnished domiciliary, hospital, or nursing home care.

H.R. 1504 was introduced on March 7, 1985, at the request of The American Legion.

*Resolution No. 538* (Michigan).—Sponsor and support legislation to amend 38 USC, section 3104, so as to remove the restriction against the receipt of Armed Forces retirement pay due to length of service concurrently with VA compensation.

H.R. 1492 was introduced on March 7, 1985, at the request of The American Legion.

*Resolution No. 552* (Colorado).—Sponsor and support legislation to provide a seven year presumption period for Syringomyelia.

H.R. 1502 was introduced on March 7, 1985, at the request of The American Legion.

### Vocational Rehabilitation and Education

*Resolution No. 477* (Virginia).—Support legislation to increase allowances in education and training under Chapter 34, title 38, USC.

This resolution was satisfied, for the most part, with the passage of Public Law 98–543, approved October 24, 1984.

### Insurance

*Resolution No. 204* (Ohio).—Support legislation to amend 38 USC, Chapter 19, so as to provide a special Government Life Insurance Program for Vietnam Era veterans.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of the Legion's views.

## 1984 National Convention Referred Resolutions

### Policy

*Resolution No. 18* (Oklahoma).—Urges The American Legion to commend certain Veterans Administration officials.

At its meeting on October 10–11, 1984, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

*Resolution No. 44* (Florida).—Oppose legislation which would authorize judicial review of the decisions of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

This recommendation is now Resolution No. 27 of the 1984 Fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and remains in referred status.

*Resolution No. 52* (Hawaii).—Seeks legislation as would permit any honorably discharged veteran to receive readjustment counseling services, and that appropriate outstation staffing be provided to accommodate this service.

At its meeting on October 10–11, 1984, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

*Resolution No. 94* (Nebraska).—Urges that a Veterans Outreach Program Office be established in western Nebraska.

At its May 8–9, 1985 meeting, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

*Resolution No. 109* (North Dakota).—Urges adequate funding in the VA Fiscal Year 1985 budget to prevent any downward personnel loss in the Department of Veterans Benefits.

At its May 8–9, 1985 meeting, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

*Resolution No. 150* (Arizona).—Seeks legislation to require repayment of all monies lost by veterans as a result of the retroactive application of an IRS ruling affecting flight training.

This resolution is currently under staff study.

*Resolution No. 157* (Maine).—Seeks legislation to amend title 38, USC, so as to extend wartime dates for Vietnam Era veterans from July 8, 1959 through May 7, 1975.

At its meeting on May 8–9, 1985, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be held in study status.

*Resolution No. 189* (Pennsylvania).—Seeks legislation to provide for judicial review of decisions of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

At its May 8–9, 1985 meeting, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be held in study status.

*Resolution No. 220* (Massachusetts).—Oppose any and all proposals that would further reduce any of the veterans benefits programs.

This resolution is now Resolution No. 5 of the Fall 1984 NEC meeting. (see Resolution No. 5 of this report for further disposition).

*Resolution No. 487* (Philippine Islands).—Seeks legislation to provide for judicial review of decisions of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

At its Fall 1984 meeting, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

*Resolution No. 531* (Iowa).—Seeks to name the VAMC, Iowa City, Iowa, the Darwin Lee Judge Veterans Administration Medical Center.

At its meeting on October 10–11, 1984, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

*Resolution No. 534* (Iowa).—Opposes any and all proposals for any further reduction of personnel in VA Regional Offices.

This resolution was approved and is now Resolution No. 6 of the Fall 1984 NEC meeting. (see Resolution No. 6 of this report for further disposition).

*Resolution No. 554* (Colorado).—Urges the Veterans Administration to expand its Vet Center program to include rural areas.

At its meeting during the 1985 VA&R Conference, the Commission approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

### National Cemeteries

*Resolution No. 291* (Missouri).—Urges that the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis be declared a national historic monument.

At its meeting on October 10–11, 1984, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

*Resolution No. 311* (Minnesota).—Urges The American Legion to support the practice of using upright headstones in all national cemeteries.

This resolution was approved by the Commission during the 1985 VA&R Conference and is now Resolution No. 1 from the Spring 1985 NEC meeting. (see Resolution No. 1 of this report for further disposition.

*Resolution No. 541* (Michigan).—Urges the Veterans Administration to provide a burial vault or grave liner, free of charge, for any veteran buried at the National Cemetery, Fort Custer, Michigan.

At its meeting on May 8–9, 1985, the NEC approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

*Resolution No. 575* (Alabama).—Oppose any action that would remove religious emblems from grave markers in national cemeteries.

At its meeting on October 10–11, 1984, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

### Medical and Hospitals

*Resolution No. 45* (Florida).—Seeks legislation that the income limit of $814.00 be waived for veterans and widows who are required to apply for pension with aid and attendance added, and that the Medicaid program pay the remaining cost of the nursing home care.

At its May 8–9, 1985 meeting, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

*Resolution No. 46* (Florida).—Seeks legislation that would establish Nurses Training programs in VA Medical Centers.

At its meeting on October 10–11, 1984, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

*Resolution No. 176* (Arkansas).—Seeks legislation that would restore medical benefits to nonservice-connected veterans.

At its meeting on October 10–11, 1984, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

*Resolution No. 314* (Minnesota).—Urges that services authorized under the Fee Basis Home Health Care program be increased.

At its May 8–9, 1985 meeting, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

*Resolution No. 564* (South Carolina).—Seeks legislation to provide for the exclusion of all veteran benefit payments in determination of eligibility for other Federal subsidized programs, such as Medicaid for nursing home care.

At its October 10–11, 1984 meeting, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

*Resolution No. 568* (South Carolina).—Seeks legislation to provide for full dental care to veterans rated service-connected at 50% or above.

This resolution was recommended for approval and is now Resolution No. 2 of the May 1985 NEC meeting. (see Resolution No. 2 of this report for further disposition).

*Resolution No. 590* (Maine).—Seeks a decision by the General Counsel for the Veterans Administration concerning the use of VA per diem payments for the care of Medicaid eligible veterans.

At its meeting on May 8–9, 1985, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

### Veterans Administration Hospitals

The following resolutions were recommended for referral to the Standing Commission for presentation to the Veterans Administration. Each resolution relates to the construction or remodeling of hospitals facilities, additional beds or other matters relating to medical care facilities. The resolutions were referred to the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, and his reply in each instance was furnished the Depart-

ment sponsoring the resolution. The resolutions and the Administrator's reply are as follows:

*Resolution No. 250* (Texas).—Urges the construction of a Veterans Administration hospital in the El Paso area in Texas.

The VA reply: "Medical District #25, located in Phoenix, Arizona, which has jurisdiction over the El Paso area, submitted a proposal in the 1983 Medical District Initiated Program Planning (MEDIPP) process to initiate a study to assess the feasibility of providing VA inpatient services in the El Paso area. I approved that proposal and the District is now formulating the membership of a task group to study this matter and is developing an appropriate charge to the group."

*Resolution No. 264* (Texas).—Urges the Veterans Administration to acquire additional space for the Outpatient Clinic in El Paso, Texas.

The VA reply: "Included in Medical District #25's 1983 Medical District Initiated Program Planning (MEDIPP) process was a proposal to find, lease, and renovate additional space by FY 1985 for the outpatient Clinic in El Paso. I approved that proposal and the district is now in the process of initiating the necessary actions to accomplish the intent of the proposal."

*Resolution No. 265* (Texas).—Urges the construction of a Veterans Administration hospital in the lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas and, Resolution No. 266 (Texas)—urges the Veterans Administration to conduct a feasibility study for the possible procurement of a medical facility in the lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas.

The VA reply: "VA policy is to acquire property only after a determination has been made that such an acquisition is necessary. The determination of the need for new VA facilities is accomplished, through our Medical District Initiated Program Planning (MEDIPP) process. Medical District #20, responsible for planning veterans' medical care in South Texas, evaluated all available planning data for this region in 1983. As a result, the Medical District was able to propose an expansion of the McAllen Clinic. While the outpatient expansion was fully justified, the medical district was unable to recommend in their 1983 plans the establishment of a new inpatient facility in South Texas. They concluded that proposed expansion of medical and surgical wards at the San Antonio VAMC will continue to meet Valley inpatient needs for the foreseeable future."

*Resolution No. 341* (Illinois).—Urges the Veterans Administration to increase funding for the Outpatient Clinic in Peoria, Illinois.

The VA reply: "The Peoria Outpatient Clinic (OPC) which is a satellite of the VA Medical Center in Danville, Illinois has experienced an increasing work load. In FY 1984, the clinic exceeded the projected 34,000 visits by over 1,000 visits. The growth is attributed to the expected increase in work load as well as the increased unemployment in the area. In August 1984 the waiting times and work load were analyzed. Starting in September 1984 a new screening procedure was initiated which ensures that all applicants are screened within thirty days and scheduled for the appropriate clinic if necessary. The Danville VA Medical Center sends out staff for the speciality clinics at least monthly. The Medical Center will continue to monitor the staffing and work load at the Peoria OPC and make adjustments if necessary."

*Resolution No. 401* (Maryland).—Urges an early date for construction of a replacement VA Medical Center in Maryland to meet the needs of veterans in that State.

The VA reply: "The planning for Baltimore was for several years predicted on the construction of a new hospital. However, funding for a new hosptial was not included in the Fiscal Year 1984-1985 budget. Recently, the issue of a new hosptial was again considered and it was decided that a strategy to modernize the existing Loch Raven facility should instead be pursued. The VA has begun the process of determining the most inappropriate modernization approach. The recently approved VA budget request contains an appropriation for $2,000,000 earmarked for advance planning for the two Baltimore VA Medical Centers; namely Loch Raven and Fort Howard. These planning funds will be used to determine the scope of the contstruction and modernization needs for both of these facilities. In addition, the VA will study the alternative of a new replacement hosptial for the Baltimore area. We intend to expedite this planning to the maximum extent possible in order to insure that necessary construction activity can be carried out as soon as possible."

*Resolution No. 539* (Michigan).—Urges the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to seek funds for the replacement of the VA Medical Center, Allen Park, Michigan.

The VA reply: "The Veterans Administration recognizes that facility deficiencies exist at the Allen Park VA Medical Center as evidenced by the inclusion of Allen Park on the list of ten facilities most in need of major modernization, new construction or total replacement. A Comprehensive Facility Study has been completed and the VA is conducting a review of the associated Enviornmental Impact Statement before a determination is made regarding the most appropriate site and construc-

tion alternative. Utilization of the existing site, should an alternative location be selected, will be consistent with the relative need as identified in the Medical District Initiated Program Planning (MEDIPP) plan for Medical District #14."

### Claims and Rating

*Resolution No. 106* (North Dakota).—Oppose any proposals that would in any way delay cost-of-living increases in compensation or DIC benefit payments.

At its meeting on October 10–11, 1984, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be received and recorded because recent legislation has satisfied the intent of the resolution.

*Resolution No. 178* (Arkansas).—Seeks legislation to provide for an earlier effective date for payment of authorized benefits.

At its meeting on October 10–11, 1984, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

*Resolution No. 200* (Ohio).—Urges legislation to provide Mortgage Life Insurance for those veterans unable to acquire commercial life insurance because of service-connected disabilities.

The National Adjutant reassigned this resolution to the Economics Division. This action was concurred in by the National Executive Committee at its meeting on October 10–11, 1984.

*Resolution No. 551* (Colorado).—Sponsor and support legislation to provide automatic payment to the surviving spouse, a pro-rated portion of the veteran's last compensation or pension check.

At its meeting on October 10–11, 1984, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

*Resolution No. 565* (South Carolina).—Seeks legislation to repeal PL 95–30 authorizing garnishment of disability compensation where there has been a partial waiver of military retired pay.

At its meeting during the 1985 VA&R Conference, the Commission recommended this resolution be rejected.

*Resolution No. 566* (South Carolina).—Sponsor and support legislation to require scheduled reviews of the 1945 Schedule for Rating Disabilities.

At its meeting during the 1985 VA&R Conference, the Commission recommended this resolution be rejected.

### Vocational Rehabilitation and Education

*Resolution No. 50* (Hawaii).—Urges legislation to amend PL 96–466 to provide employment services of up to 30 months for non-seriously disabled veterans, and no established time limit for seriously disabled veterans.

At its meeting during the 1985 VA&R Conference, the Commission recommended this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

*Resolution No. 290* (Missouri).—Urges the continuation of certifying veteran students to the Veterans Administration on an annual basis instead of term-by-term.

This resolution was approved and is now Resolution No. 3 from the Spring 1985, NEC meeting. (see Resolution No. 3 in this report for further disposition).

*Resolution No. 561* (Colorado).—Seeks legislation to extend the delimiting date for GI Bill educational benefits for those veterans who are uneducated and unskilled.

At its meeting during the 1985 VA&R Conference, the Commission recommended this resolution be disposed of administratively (resolved with sponsoring Department).

*Resolution No. 571* (South Carolina).—Urges legislation to amend title 38, USC, pertaining to certain college courses of study.

This resolution was approved and is now Resolution No. 4 from the Spring 1985, NEC meeting. (see Resolution No. 4 in this report for further disposition).

**National Executive Committee Meeting, Oct. 10–11, 1984**

*Resolution No. 4.*—Urges The American Legion to reaffirm its support for a National Organ Donor Registration program.

Administrative action continues in an effort to explore the possibility of a stronger relationship with the National Kidney Foundation and other entities to accomplish the intent of this resolution.

*Resolution No. 5.*—Oppose any and all proposals for further reductions in any of the veterans benefit programs.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views. In addition, the Deputy Director appeared before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on February 20, 1985, and the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on February 21, 1985 to present the Legion's views.

*Resolution No. 6.*—Urges the President, the Veterans Administration, and the Congress to reverse the reductions of personnel in the Department of Veterans Benefits to assure the continued delivery of service to veterans and their dependents.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views. In addition, the Deputy Director appeared before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on February 20, 1985, and the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on February 21, 1985 to present the Legion's views. Additionally, the Deputy Director appeared before the Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies to present the Legion's views.

*Register No. 2087* (Michigan).—Seeks legislation to create a national uniform code of authorized handicap vehicle license plates or permits.

At its meeting on October 10–11, 1984, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be reassigned to Internal Affairs Commission.

**National Executive Committee Meeting, May 8–9, 1985**

*Resolution No. 1.*—Support legislation to provide that the Veterans Administration make an exception regarding the size of the gravesite and the use of upright headstones at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minnesota and the Black Hills National Cemetery in South Dakota.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

*Resolution No. 2.*—Support legislation to provide full dental care to veterans who are rated at 50% or more for service-connected disabilities; and, full dental care for any veteran that has a service-connected dental condition due to trauma.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

*Resolution No. 3.*—Urges that certifying veteran students to the VA on an annual basis be continued.

The Director is taking the necessary administrative action to implement the intent of this resolution.

*Resolution No. 4.*—Support legislation to provide that veterans enrolled in non-college degree courses in those accredited institutions which offer both NCD and IHL types of courses be subject to the same regulations for those veterans pursuing IHL courses.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action by taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

*Resolution No. 8.*—Oppose granting a Federal Charter to the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views.

*Resolution No. 9.*—Oppose any legislative or administrative initiative that would impose a means test on non-service-connected veterans seeking Veterans Administration health care.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congessional Committees of our views.

*Resolution No. 16.*—The American Legion Policy on Presumptive Disabilities of Former Prisoners of War.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views. The Director of the Legislative Division sent a letter to the Chairman of Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension, and Insurance expressing the Legion's views. Pending legislation (H.R. 864) is currently being considered.

*Resolution No. 17.*—National Cemetery site for Northern California.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views. The Deputy Director submitted testimony to the House Veterans Affairs Committee on March 14, 1985, and appeared before the Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies on May 2, 1985 to express the Legion's views.

*Resolution No. 18.*—Support legislation to provide that the Veterans Administration Regional Office in Manila shall continue to operate until September 30, 1990.

The Director informed the Legislative Division of our position regarding this subject, and requested necessary action be taken to advise the appropriate Congressional Committees of our views. On May 20, 1985, H.R. 2343 was passed by the House of Representatives which addresses this resolution.

*Register No. 2094* (Florida).—Urges legislation to rescind the regulation denying payment of burial allowance in those cases where the funeral expenses are paid prior to the veteran's death.

At its May 8–9, 1985 meeting, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

*Register No. 2096* (Philippine Islands).—Support legislation to provide that the Veterans Administration Regional Office in Manila shall continue to operate until September 30, 1990.

At its May 8–9, 1985 meeting, the National Executive Committee recommended this resolution be approved. This is now Resolution No. 18 of the Spring 1985 meeting of the NEC. (see Resolution No. 18 of this report for further disposition).

*Register No. 2098* (New Jersey).—Domiciliary and nursing home care of veterans.

At its meeting on May 8–9, 1985, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be held in study status.

*Register No. 2100* (Iowa).—Amending Bulletin "The Aging Veteran, Uncounted Costs, Unkept Promises?"

At its meeting on May 8–9, 1985, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be received and recorded (intent of the resolution has been essentially accomplished).

*Register No. 2101* (Iowa).— Veterans Administration Medical Center, Knoxville, Iowa.

At its meeting on May 8–9, 1985, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be held in study status.

*Register No. 2102* (Iowa).— Sponsor and support legislation to amend that portion of PL 98–543, Veterans Improvement Act of 1984, pertaining to the disability levels of veterans granted pensions on the basis of being 65 years of age or older.

At its meeting on May 8–9, 1985, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be rejected.

*Register No. 2103* (Iowa).— Oppose the consolidation of Veterans Administration Regional Offices.

At its meeting on May 8–9, 1985, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be received and recorded (intent of the resolution has been essentially accomplished).

*Register No. 2104* (Iowa).—Oppose any legislative or administrative initiative that would impose a means test on nonservice-connected veterans seeking Veterans Administration health care.

At its meeting on May 8–9, 1985, the National Executive Committee approved the recommendation that this resolution be approved. This is now Resolution No. 9 of the Spring 1985 meeting of the NEC. (see Resolution No. 9 of this report for further disposition).

*Register No. 2105* (Iowa).—National Cemetery site for Northern California.

At its meeting on May 8–9, 1985, the National Executive Committee recommended this resolution be approved. This is now Resolution No. 17 of the Spring 1985 meeting of the NEC. (see Resolution No. 17 of this report for further disposition).

## VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

Members of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission held four meetings during the period July 1, 1984 through June 30, 1985 as follows:

(1) The Commission met in Grand Ballrooms A&B, Sheraton Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah, on September 1, 1984, preceding the 66th Annual National Convention. A report covering that meeting was made to the National Executive Committee at its pre-convention meeting, September 2, 1984. The report appears in the proceedings of that meeting.

(2) An 11 member Subcommittee of the Executive Section met at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8–9, 1984. A report of that meeting was presented to the National Executive Committee on October 10, 1984, and appears in the proceedings of the National Executive Committee for October 10–11, 1984.

(3) The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission met for the 62nd connection with the 25th Annual Washington Conference. The actions taken by the Commission during this meeting are contained in the Commission's Advance Report to the National Executive Committee of May 10–11, 1985, and also appears in the proceedings of that meeting.

(4) A five member Subcommittee of the Executive Section met at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8–9, 1985. A report of that meeting was presented to the National Executive Committee on May 10, 1985, and appears in the proceedings of the National Executive Committee for May 10–11, 1985.

## REGIONAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS, THE AMERICAN LEGION AND AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

For the sixth consecutive year, eight Regional Conferences were conducted covering the period September 14 through October 21. The meetings were held in the following cities: Providence, RI; Syracuse, NY; Mobile, AL; Oklahoma City, OK; St. Louis, MO; Fargo, ND; Las Vegas, NV; and Cheyenne, WY.

At each Saturday morning session, The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary met jointly, at which time topics of common interest were discussed. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission attended the Conference in their respective regions. At all Conferences, the Regional Chairmen were in attendance.

Staff members of the Commission were present at each Conference, at which time they provided the Conferees with various reports dealing with the overview of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program, administrative developments with the Veterans Administration, and an analysis of those significant legislative matters emanating from the 1984 National Convention.

The several recommendations presented during these Conferences were considered and acted upon by the Commission at its meeting on March 6, 1985.

## ANNUAL NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION CONFERENCE

On March 6, 1985, the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference was held for the 62nd time in the Sheraton Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C. Attendance was one of the largest in recent years, with participants including members of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, Department Service Officers and Rehabilitation Directors, County and Post Service Officers, members of the American Legion Auxiliary, and numerous National, Department and Post officials.

National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Chairman W.F. Lenker, and Vice Chairman Chester F. Stellar, alternated as presiding officers at all sessions of the Conference. Addressing the Conference were National Commander Clarence M. Bacon; Mrs. Wayne Adams Gardner, President, American Legion Auxiliary; and, the Administrator of the Veterans Administration.

The several panel discussions covered a number of vital subjects relating to veterans programs, Social Security, and the Department of Defense Discharge Review and Correction Boards. There was a free flowing exchange on all subjects resulting to the mutual benefit of all in attendance.

For the fourth year in a pre-conference Seminar, the Chairman of the Commission and members of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division staff, met with over 100 Department Service Officers, their assistants and others involved in the field of veterans affairs. Topical subjects were discussed in a full day session.

### Conference Recommendations

Constituted as a Subcommittee of the Commission, the 1985 Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference Committee on Recommendations consisted of the following individuals: Raymond Allen (NH); Allen Ehrlich (NY); Charles Boles (AL); Ray Cliver (TX); Dale Kuhn (IN); Charles MacLaughlin (ND); Jack Howell (NV); and, George Serr (ID).

Consideration was given to the recommendations which emanated from the Regional Leadership Workshop. There were no recommendations considered by the Committee on Recommendations.

## VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

The staff of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission has devoted considerable time and effort during the past year to those matters relating to rehabilitation legislative activities. Such activities involve the drafting of bills which would give effect to approved resolutions, the prepared preparation of testimony for presentation when hearings are scheduled. In addition, there is the continued liaison with the staff of the legislative commission, the staffs of Congressional Committees, as well as with various members of Congress.

There follows a brief account of the Congressional hearings held since June 28, 1984, covering the 1st and 2nd sessions of the 99th Congress, on matters pertaining to the Legion's program in which the commission and its staff were involved:

(1) On June 27, 1984, the Chief of Claims Service appeared before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs concerning the Legion's position relative to proposed monetary increases "in service-connected disability and death benefits, as well as several other measures . . . all of which pertain to benefits to veterans, dependents and survivors."

(2) On June 27, 1984, the Deputy Director, appeared before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House of Representatives Committee on Veterans Affairs in presentation of the Legion's position concerning Chapter 34, delimiting periods.

(3) On September 18, 1984, Clarence M. Bacon, National Commander, appeared before the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs to present The American Legion's position on various issues concerning veterans benefits: VA budget, medical care, monetary adjustments, medical and prosthetic research, VA construction program proposals, aging veterans, Agent Orange, Women Veterans, Vietnam era veterans, World War I pension, amendments to Public Law 95-588, Veterans employment and the Federal Government grade reduction initiative.

(4) On February 20, 1985, the Deputy Director appeared before the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs concerning Fiscal Year 1986 budget proposals.

(5) On March 5, 1985, the Deputy Director, presented The American Legion's position in regard to the Veterans Administration's medical construction program for Fiscal Year 1986, to the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care under the Committee of Veterans Affairs in the U.S. House of Representatives.

(6) On March 14, 1985, the Deputy Director presented the Legion's stance concerning the proposed creation of a national cemetery in Merced County, CA, and support for flat grave markers in national cemeteries to the Subcommittee on Housing and Memorial Affairs under the Committee of Veterans Affairs in the U.S. House of Representatives.

(7) On March 26, 1985, the Director appeared before the Committee on Veterans Affairs in the United States Senate, to state The American Legion's position, relative to the Veterans Administration's proposed medical construction budget program.

(8) On April 17, 1985, the Deputy Director presented to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Veterans Affairs (Subcommittee on Compensation, Pension, and Insurance), The American Legion's standing in regard to various budgetary proposals relative to veterans benefits.

(9) On April 24, 1985, the Deputy Director appeared before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations in the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Veterans Affairs, to present The American Legion's views in regard to the GS 11-15 reduction initiative.

(10) On April 26, 1985, the Director appeared before the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care in the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Veterans Affairs to tender the Legion's opinion in regard to H.R. 505 ("Older Veterans' Health Care Amendments of 1985").

(11) On May 1, 1985, the Deputy Director appeared before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations, to present The American Legion's stance in regard to the appropriations for Function 700 (Veterans Benefits and Services) for Fiscal Year 1986.

(12) On May 2, 1985, the Deputy Director appeared before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations to again address the Legion's view point on proposed funds for Function 700 (Veterans Benefits and Services) for Fiscal Year 1986.

(13) On May 2, 1985, the Assistant Director appeared before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care under the Committee on Veterans Affairs, to present the Legion's position on: H.R. 788 (recruit and retain graduate and student nurse technicians by the Veterans Administration), H.R. 789 (to extend certain expiring veterans health care programs and for other purposes), H.R. 1303 (a bill to enable the Veterans Administration's Department of Medicine & Surgery to transfer from New York to Washington, D.C., the Technology and Performance Evaluation Section and the Information and Education Service located at the Prosthetic Center in New York. A new Prosthetic Assessment and Information Center in New York. A new Prosthetic Assessment and Information Center will be established in the vicinity of Washington, D.C.) and H.R. 1818 that would enable the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to release a limitation on the use of certain real property conveyed by the Administrator to the city of McKinney, Texas.

(14) On May 8, 1985, the Deputy Director appeared before the U.S. Senate's Committee on Veterans Affairs to tender The American Legion's stand on health care to veterans: (a) proposed systematic reduction of VA employees (GS 11-15 grade areduction), (b) extend the eligibility for VA health care of veterans exposed to Agent Orange and ionizing radiation, and who have incurred diseases or disabilities that may result from such exposure, until September 30, 1989, (c) support the permanent establishment for alcohol and drug treatment units, (d) exclude monies paid for incentive therapy and compensative therapy as income for VA pension purposes, (e) support confidentiality of peer review information developed by groups such as the Health Services Review Organization which is comprised of VA health care professionals, (f) limit the power of a disciplinary board to reduce or remove clinical privileges of VA health care professionals, (g) support the proposals for a 48 month pilot program to evaluate the effectiveness, feasibility and desirability of providing eligible veterans in need of hospital or nursing home care to obviate the need of such care in noninstitutional settings and other pertinent issues as they directly impact veterans affairs.

(15) On May 22, 1985, the Director appeared before the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Committee of Veterans Affairs, to present The American Legion's stand an co-location of regional offices and Medical Centers of the Veterans Administration.

## INFORMATIONAL SERVICES

Through its informational; services, the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and staff continues to keep key Legion officials and other interested parties fully informed of our program activities and functions. Considerable time and effort is devoted to the preparation and distribution of various publications dealing with the varied areas of concern.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Bulletins and Memorandums are routinely released that cover practically every segment on those matters under the Commission's jurisdiction. These publications are sent Department Service Officers, members of the Commission, and many others interested in the Legion's rehabilitation program. For the calendar year 1984, a total of 42 Bulletins were issued. In the same time period, a total of 35 Memorandum letters were prepared and distributed. As of the date of this report, 21 Bulletins and 17 Memorandum letters have been issued thus far in 1985.

Special publications are prepared on particular subjects as the occasion requires. In many instances, these are given wide distribution. The recent publication of "We Want You To know . . . And Receive," has been given national distribution, and has been widely acclaimed by Department Service Officers, as an excellent primer for veterans' benefits. The Aging Veteran has also been well received by the Departments, and other agencies concerned with the geriatric veteran population. The Aging Veteram has focused on each Department's approach to the older veteran, and in doing so has presented a national overview relative to the problems faced by this unique segment of the veteran population.

Each year following the termination of each Session of Congress, the staff revises The American Legion Post Service Officers Manual. This publication has wide distribution, and as soon as available, sufficient copies are mailed to all Department Headquarters—free of charge—in sufficient quantity to provide one copy for each Post within the Department. It is through this publication that those engaged in service work are provided up-to-date information to properly inform veterans and their dependents when called for counsel.

Additional responsibilities cover the required revision of other publications, and include: The American Legion Voluntary Service Handbook; The American Legion and National Health Insurance; Agent Orange—In Search of Answers; and, the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Program.

It is through such sources that the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and its staff endeavor to provide as much information as possible not only to the other Divisions of the National Organization, but also to the various Departments, individuals, and others interested in our program.

## NATIONAL CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Four members of the National Cemetery Committee met at VA Central Office at 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., on March 5, 1985, in conjunction with the Annual National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference. Present were: Bob Legan (AR), Chairman; Roger Smith (OH), Vice Chairman; and members Roberto Gonzalez (PR); and George Skeliy (TX) Also present were Grady Brown (AR); and Luis A Andujar (PR). Staff liaison to the Committee were Tom Schneiders and Rod Kirk.

The Committee received an extensive briefing by the Department of Memorial Affairs. Present at this briefing were Paul T. Bannai, Chief Memorial Affairs Director; Deputy Chief Memorail Affairs Director Arthur S. Hamerschlag; and Dean W. Holt, Executive Director.

The presentation of these VA officials was most thorough and informative. Mr. Bannai and staff expressed gratitue for the valuable contributions The American Legion continues to provide concerning the National Cemetery System and the State Cemetery program. Mr. Bannai also pointed out the need for information by our Organization in informing all veterans and dependents of their rights and entitlements to burial benefits. American Legion personnel should become involved in several areas by providing assistance and support to the acquisition of additional acreage to expand certain national cemeteries. One example is Roseburg, Oregon, where VA is seeking to acquire 5 additional acres. Ironically, in the past, VA donated more than 500 acres of land to the city, and now is experiencing difficulty getting 5 of these acres back for use as a National Cementery. Another example of this is the Knoxville, Tennessee National Cementery, where VA is contemplating making additional gravesites available by eliminating a road on the cemetery grounds which is no longer being utilized. Other areas discussed where additional acreage is needed were Bay Pines, Florida, and Port Hudson, Louisiana. VA officials also recognize the need for the establishment of new national cemeteries in certain areas, such as Seattle, Washington and Cleveland, Ohio.

Another topic discussed was the Fiscal Year 1986 funding for Department of Memorial Affairs. Mr. Bannai reported the Department is in pretty good shape but has been instructed to ivestigate the possiblity of contracting out certain work loads, such as vehicle maintenance and to emphasize more automated data programs within field activities.

Other topics incuded a House Bill (H.R. 757) which has been introduced in the Congress, concerning expansion of the National Cemetery System; the need for more volunteers to participate in Honor Guard Ceremonies; and the noted increase in burial rates within the system.

The Committee likewise considered one resolution (Res. No. 311 (MN) of the 1984 National Convention) which the Committee recommended for approval with amendment. Action on this resolution has already been considered by the Commission.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL CONSULTANTS

The primary duties have been to act as medical consultant to the appeals representatives in the The American Legion offices at the Board of Veterans Appeals. This has involved review of case folders referred to us by the individual representatives seeking medical guidance of the appropriate course to pursue in pleading the case. After review of the record, a written report is given to the appeals representative who referred the case. This would include a personal consultation with the representative when indicated to explain the complexity of the situation. In addition to this, a significant number of cases are of such medically technical nature, that we have made actual case presentations to the Boards of Veterans Appeals personally. As a result of these latter cases, awards during 1984, were made of $530,389.00 dollars lump sum. Associated with this, were monthly awards of $21,659.00 dollars. It should be noted that one of the two medical consultants reached the mandatory retirement age during May of 1984, so that for the remainder of the year, the functions deslcribed above were carried on by one consultant. The above awards, undoubtedly would have been higher if two consultants had been present through the entire year.

In addition to the actual consultative activities, there have been scheduled training sessions with the members of the appeals office. This included scheduled lectures with open question and answer periods. Included in these sessions, were the members of the VA Regional Office staff and on occasion individual instruction given at the Regional Office.

The American Legion maintains a staff of representatives at the VA Regional Office in Washington on North Capitol Street. When they have a case that is technically complicated, they have requested and received consultation at the Regional Office. This would involve a personal trip to the Regional Office to review case folders and to give written reports.

In addition to the service provided to the local American Legion representatives, we have offered help and received requests from the Department Service Officers throughout the United States concerning cases they were handling of individual claims which required medical and technical interpretation. This consultation was provided both by telephone and by written communications. These contacts have been encouraged since this can be a valuable service to the Department Service Officers. In addition to this, we have participated in the mid-Winter meetings and the annual meeting of The American Legion at the Department Service Officer's sessions and acted as a source of expertise in all medical matters.

An equally important function of the medical consultants has been to act in an advisory capacity to the Director of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission on medical subjects. This can be in the form of policy with regard to the operation of the Veterans Administration hospital system, or it can be in an advisory capacity on legislative approaches and testimony before the legislative committees. In addition, because of the past employment with the Veterans Administration and knowledge of the agency, people, and facilities, the Director has called upon the medical consultant to assist in the relationship with the Veterans Administration. This can be as a result of the Department Service Officer's making individual complaints against a given hospital, or it may be in the form of assisting the placement or procuring of needed treatment for a given veteran. Equally important, has been the resolution of alleged administrative problems within the Veterans Administration, either real or anticipated. Contacts with the Veterans Administration have taken more formal nature with multiple different assignments. These would consist of (a) attending monthly or bimonthly meetings with the Chief Medical Director along with other veterans service organizations, (b) attend special medical advisory group meetings as a Legion observer, (c) member of the VA advisory committee on Agent Orange, (d) member of an ad hoc committee such as in the situation of the reorganization of the prosthetic service and (e) represent The American Legion at various VA functions. In addition, we have been called upon by the representatives of the Department of Defense Review Board for medical consultation in cases that are before that Board. This has assisted them in the pursuit of individual cases of the benefit of the veteran.

A major function of The American Legion has been the activity of the field representatives surveying the Veterans Administration Hospitals. Because the individuals have had no previous exposure to medicine prior to employment by The American Legion, they have taken advantage of the knowledge of the medical consultants to seek consultation prior to their visit to the individual hospitals and to discuss their findings prior to the preparation of their final reports, in order to make their report more meaningful. Here again, my previous employment with the Veterans

Administration and my personal knowledge of the individual hospitals, has been of considerable help to these individuals in their evaluation of the institutions. The medical consultant also acts as a consultant to the Veterans Planning and Coordinating Committee of The American Legion.

## GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE ACTIVITIES

The United States Government, through the Veterans Administration, operates five life insurance programs for members of the armed forces and veterans. These five programs alone have 4.2 million policies in force with a face value of over 28 billion dollars.

Changes in two of the programs have taken place. United States Government Life Insurance (policy number prefix "K") policies were declared paid in full effective January 1983. No further premium payments are necessary. National Service Life Insurance (policy number prefix "V") 5-year term policies will have the premium capped at age 70. The effective date for the capping was September 1, 1984.

In addition to the above the Veterans Administration supervises the operation of three other life insurance programs (Servicemen's Group Life, Veterans Group Life and Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance) that have 3.6 million policyholders.

The Chief of Insurance Activities, located in the Veterans Administration Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, supervises the staff of the Philadelphia and St. Paul insurance offices, providing guidance and assistance to the staff representatives in these offices. He handles policy matters with the appropriate Veterans Administration officials and presents cases for appeal and administrative review in order to adjust or restore insurance benefits. At the request of the Director, assists in the preparation of draft bills, resulting from stated mandates, to be presented to the Veterans Affairs Committees of the Congress. He also engages in research, the preparation of reports on various insurance matters, and makes a continuous review of the Government Life Insurance Program to insure proper and efficient operation by the Veterans Administration.

### VA Insurance Centers—Philadelphia, PA and St. Paul, MN

The insurance staff at Philadelphia consists of the Chief of Insurance Activities, two insurance representatives, a secretary and two stenographers. In St. Paul, it consists of a supervisor, one secretary and one stenographer.

The Chief of Insurance Activities, supervisor and insurance representatives must have a thorough knowledge of Government Life Insurance laws, regulations and procedures and be able to analyze them in order to properly represent the veteran and their beneficiaries. The Director and other personnel are informed on policy considerations, changes in VA administrative procedures and other related matters.

Daily operations involve a variety of services such as: the actual representation of insureds; the review of folders and supporting records for the purpose of furnishing reports to the veteran or an accredited service officer; close liaison with Department Service Officers to assure prompt and adequate service; give general insurance information and guidance in reply to inquiries from service officers; prepare and assist in preparing insurance appeals; and a number of other services relating directly to insurance.

The annual work load reported by the Philadelphia and St. Paul offices reflects the extent of operation of The American Legion's service in the area of Government Life Insurance. For the period of July 1, 1984 through June 30, 1985, the following combined activities were reported:

| | |
|---|---|
| Letters received | 6,169 |
| Letters written | 10,975 |
| Evidence and claims filed | 8,106 |
| Files reviewed | 5,310 |
| Waiver claims presented | 1,714 |
| Death claims presented | 2,480 |
| Telephone calls | 6,090 |
| Premium accounts reviewed | 4,720 |
| Personal contacts | 4,620 |

## CLAIMS SERVICE

The claims representatives of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission provides direct assistance and representation to veterans, their dependents, survivors in claims for any benefits to which they may be entitled. There is an assigned staff of 18 of which 15 are accredited representatives. 12 of whom are Vietnam Era veterans.

Within the Table of Organization, four claims representatives, one secretary, and a supervisor are assigned to assist claimants whose cases come under the jurisdiction of the Washington, DC VA Regional Office, five appeals representatives, two secretaries, and a supervisor are assigned to act as counsel in cases coming before the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, DC; two representatives and a supervisor serve as counsel in cases coming before the Discharge Review Boards and the Boards for the Correction of Military and Naval Records of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

In providing this type of representation, the staff of the Claims Service is fortunate to have available the services of two medical consultants and a legal consultant. They provide invaluable assistance in the review and presentation of difficult and complex cases.

Although the daily activity of these accredited representatives is generally concerned with the review and presentation of claims and evidence, frequently they are called upon by Legion service officers in the Departments for advice and counsel. In addition, personal meetings are held with supervisory and management personnel of the Veterans Administration and other agencies to secure policy and procedural determinations which affect the processing of claims and the delivery of benefits to claimants. They also participate in regularly scheduled meetings with the Veterans Administration and the other veterans service organizations to discuss and exchange conformation and ideas concerning problems in the veteran's benefit programs.

## VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS CLAIMS UNIT

The American Legion maintains a claims staff composed of one supervisor, four claims representatives, and one stenographer at the Washington, DC VA Regional Office, for the purpose of providing service and assistance to veterans and their families whose claims come under the jurisdiction of this regional office. The areas served by this office include the District of Columbia, the Marvland counties of Montgomery and Prince Georges, and the Virginia counties of Arlington and Fairfax. In addition to performing all of the same functions as any other regional office in the country, this particular regional office has exclusive jurisdiction in certain types of cases. These include any case in which the claimant resides outside of the United States, with the exception of Mexico which is served by the Houston VA Regional Office and the Philippines which is served by the Manila VA Regional Office. In addition, there are the following categories of cases: all military service rendered prior to July 6, 1903; service in the Philippine Scouts and alleged recognized guerillas where the claimant does not reside under the jurisdiction of the Manila VA Regional Office; general law cases where entitling service was rendered prior to April 21, 1898; cases involving entitlement under a Special Act of Congress; residents of the U.S. Soldiers Home, Washington, DC; and entitlement to benefits based on service in various Allied Forces.

In addition to provide direct service to veterans of the local area and overseas, this office with its unique and diversified workload is utilized as a training ground for all new accredited representatives of the Claims Service.

For the period of July 1, 1984, through June 30, 1985, the staff reviewed 2,900 Veterans Administration case files; formal hearings before the Rating Boards were conducting in 23 cases. Claims or evidence filed in support of a claim were filed in 2,106 cases. Congressional contacts were 13 and 432 personal contacts were reported. Telephone contacts numbered 2,150.

## BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

This report reflects the activities of The American Legion Board of Veterans Appeals staff for the reporting period of July 1, 1984 thru July 30, 1985. The staff is comprised of one supervisor and five appeals representatives, one secretary and one stenographer. The number of cases presented to the Board of Appeals totaled 8,652

of which 155 were scheduled personal hearings. This was a decrease of 32 personal hearings over the preceding period.

Assisting the staff in the review and presentation of cases involving complex medical issues were Dr. Thomas FitzGerald, Senior Medical Consultant and Dr. Nikita Tregubov, Medical Consultant. For this period, 636 cases were referred by staff for a medical opinion.

Disposition by the Board of Appeals in cases represented by The American Legion included: for FY 1984, 897 (12.4%) allowances; 1,004 (13.8%) remanded and 5,253 (72.5%) denials. This represented a .7% decrease in the allowance in the denial rate. Following remand action, 218 cases (21.7%) were allowed by the Regional Offices. In those cases allowed in the Field, the allowance rate increased by 1.4%.

The workload experienced by this unit has continued to be at a high level with the completion of the expansion of the Board of Veterans Appeals to 21 sections. Due to the Board's goal of reducing the overall response time in an appeal, it is anticipated the workload will remain heavy for the upcoming year.

## SPECIAL CLAIMS SERVICE

For the period of July 1, 1984 through June 30, 1985, the Special Claims Service located at the Board of Veterans Appeals Unit reviewed a total of 101 claims at the request of Department Service Officers and other American Legion accredited representatives. Of those, 58 were presented to the Veterans Administration Central Office for Administrative Review. The remaining 43 were reviewed by staff and returned to the Department Service Officers with an advisory opinion.

## ARMED SERVICES REVIEW AND CORRECTION BOARDS

Statutory authority for the existence and operation of Discharge Review Boards and the Boards for Correction of Military and Naval Records is set forth in sections 1552, 1553, and 1554 of Title 10, United States Code. During the period beginning July 1, 1984 through June 30, 1985, staff representatives of this Commission assigned to duties before these Department of Defense Boards afforded service and representation in 973 applications in the following types of claims: Disability Retirement, Reserve Retirement Pay, discharges under other than Honorable conditions, and Correction of Military, Naval, and Air Force service records. Of this number represented, 107 personal Formal Hearings were conducted.

The following is a breakdown of the actions taken by the separate Service Department Boards:

FISCAL YEAR 1984–1985

| | Presented | Allowed | Pending decisions |
|---|---|---|---|
| BOARDS FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY AND NAVAL RECORDS | | | |
| Department of Air Force | 105 | 11 | 21 |
| Department of Army | 386 | 98 | 73 |
| Department of Navy and U.S. Coast Guard | 81 | 12 | 34 |
| Total | 572 | 121 | 138 |
| MILITARY AND NAVAL DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARDS | | | |
| Department of Air Force | 69 | 14 | 23 |
| Department of Army | 219 | 43 | 28 |
| Department of Navy and U.S. Coast Guard | 151 | 10 | 7 |
| Total | 439 | 67 | 58 |
| Combined grand total | 1,011 | 188 | 196 |

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## STAFF WORKLOAD

Part of the overall activity of the various offices of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission is reflected in the annual volume of claims handled and related correspondence. During the reporting period, over 9,000 pieces of original correspondence were received which does not include copies of correspondence from the Veterans Administration and the Department of Defense to claimants pertaining to the thousands of cases handled by the Washington Office. Total correspondence for the offices of the Claims Service was in excess of 2,500 pieces and for Insurance Service offices it was in excess of 6,100.

During this period the following workloads were reported by the Claims and Insurance Services: 18,960 were reviewed by staff; of these 17,088 were presented to the various boards of the Veterans Administration and Department of Defense; 11,600 claims or evidence filed; and over 5,550 personal contacts.

## FIELD SERVICE

Field Service activities are promulgated for the period of July 1, 1984 through June 30, 1985.

The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Field Staff is composed of one Chief of Field Service, five Field Representatives, and one secretary.

Each Field Representative is assigned a specific area of the Country. During the past twelve month period assignments have been made away from their designated areas. Areas are assigned as follows:

*Area I. Miles Golson.*—Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

*Area II. Robert J. Kenny.*—Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

*Area III. Mark Regan.*—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and South Carolina.

*Area IV. Leonce Wilson.*—Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

*Area. V. John Vitikacs.*—Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

*Breakdown of reports*

| | *Reports submitted* |
|---|---|
| Medical centers: | |
| General medical, surgical, and psychiatric | 23 |
| General medical, surgical, psychiatric and intermediate | 19 |
| General medical, surgical, and intermediate | 1 |
| General medical, and surgical | 8 |
| General medical, neuropychiatric and intermediate | 8 |
| General medical and psychiatric | 1 |
| General medical and intermediate | 2 |
| VA medical and regional office center | 5 |
| Independent domiciliary | 1 |
| Satellite outpatient clinics | 13 |
| State homes | 9 |
| Total | 90 |

NOTE:

(1) Eight—Two Division VAMCs were surveyed during this period.

(2) Additionally, visitations were conducted in the following areas:

| | |
|---|---|
| Nursing home care units | 43 |
| Hospital based home care units | 22 |
| Veteran outreach centers | 40 |
| Spinal cord injury units | 6 |
| Blind rehabilitation centers | 1 |
| Domiciliaries | 2 |
| Post traumatic stress disorder units | 2 |
| Halfway houses | 8 |

Medical Center visitations are normally scheduled on a rotating basis. There are times, however, when special visits pertaining to specific problems become necessary.

A breakdown of activities for the period of July 1, 1984 through June 30, 1985 follows:

FIELD SERVICE VISITATION REPORTS—NOS. 4–045 THROUGH 5–049

| Representative | Submitted | Recommendations |
|---|---|---|
| McDonald | 1 | 3 |
| Wilson | 18 | 82 |
| Regan | 18 | 60 |
| Kenny | 13 | 59 |
| Vitikacs | 20 | 125 |
| Golson | 20 | 105 |
| Total | 90 | 434 |

Disposition of recommendations:

| | |
|---|---|
| Approved | 191 |
| Disapproval | 27 |
| Awaiting VACO reply | 216 |

The following 434 recommendations portray the needs of the 90 VA and state health care facilities and 9 state homes visited during the period of July 1, 1984 through June 30, 1985.

*Recommendations total 434*

| | *Subtotal* |
|---|---|
| Major construction projects: | |
| Replacement hospitals, domiciliaries, patient buildings and/or clinical additions | 42 |
| Nursing home care units (NHCU) | 22 |
| Spinal cord injury (SCI) buildings | 2 |
| Facility renovations for space, privacy and fire and safety | 19 |
| Other: Research buildings, laundry plants, parking garages, etc | 24 |
| Minor construction projects: [1] | |
| Renovations of service areas and renovations for program expansion | 25 |
| Renovate patient quarters (Dom) | 1 |
| Program development: Establish bed services | 8 |
| Establish treatment programs: | |
| Hospital based home care | 14 |
| Unit dose distribution system | 15 |
| Psychiatric outpatient/mental hygiene clinic/day treatment | 5 |
| Alcohol dependence treatment program/detox beds/drug program | 8 |
| Post traumatic stress disorder unit | 5 |
| Geriatric research, education clinical center | 3 |
| Geriatric evaluation unit | 3 |
| Adult day care treatment | 6 |
| Regional hearing aid distribution center | 5 |
| Develop/expand audiology and speech pathology service | 7 |
| Nuclear medicine | 1 |
| Dialysis | 1 |
| Clinical outreach centers | 1 |
| Cardiac catheterization | 4 |
| Other | 10 |
| Affiliations | 4 |
| Outpatient clinics | 19 |
| New construction | 4 |
| State home programs | 9 |
| Vietnam veterans outreach program | 1 |
| Staffing [1] | 44 |
| Supplemental—additional funding | 16 |

[1] The subtotal may be at variance with the total number of recommendations because some recommendations were combined.

| | |
|---|---|
| Equipment | 49 |
| Replace telephone system | 12 |
| FTS | 1 |
| Administrative recommendations: | |
| Site visits | 5 |
| MEDIPP review | 4 |
| Special pay rates | 10 |
| Diagnostic related groupings | 9 |
| Miscellaneous | 15 |
| Miscellaneous | 8 |

Proposed reductions in Title 5 Grade GS 11-15 positions still remain a real threat to reduce the size of management in each VA health care facility. These reductions commenced with Fiscal Year 1985. Funding amounts for those positions have already been subtracted from the salary budget. Funding reductions will be made for each Fiscal Year through Fiscal Year 1989.

Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 has once again surfaced. A notice and time-table for these studies was published in the Federal Register on June 7 and 13, 1985. These two notices include solicitation, bid closing and implementation dates. Contracts will be made beginning in Fiscal Year 1986.

Diagnostic Related Groups (DRG's) continue to receive negative comments from a large percentage of VA Medical Center Management. Premature patient discharge procedures are feared.

Rehabilitation Medicine and long term psychiatry are current areas of concern. The American Legion reported on the DRG implementations one year ago and remains skeptical even today as to whether this exercise will in fact be beneficial in providing quality medical care for all veterans in need of medical care.

Hospital management at facilities where major and minor construction projects are identified in the Medical District Initiated Program Planning (MEDIPP) are extremely concerned as to whether their overdue project is going to be funded, reduced in size or eliminated.

Automated Data Processing (ADP) is reportedly having a lot of personnel recruitment problems. Management personnel must be recruited to maintain congruity and timeliness. New equipment is in place but no one to operate the equipment.

The need for replacement and new high tech equipment is continually being reported by our national field representatives.

Management at many facilities have become even more aware of the need for a Domiciliary within their medical district. Hospital personnel continue to identify patients in need of this type of care rather than intermediate care.

Management at many medical care facilities have raised concerns that little if any direction is being received from the Director of Recreation Service in VACO. This problem has continually been brought to the attention of our national field representatives this year.

An unusual number of pharmacists vacancies have been reported in various areas of the country, most noticeable in VAMC Dallas, Texas where the Director has gone to the private sector and contracted the services of pharmacists at an extremely expensive price. The Grade Reduction program is the cause.

Nurse vacancies are still being reported in various areas of the country. Long hours, double shifts and being overburdened with additional non-nursing duties continue to contribute to the problem.

Private sector salary incentives continue to attract physical and corrective therapists in Rehabilitation Medicine Service with many vacancies in each category being reported by VA.

Chief's of Police at most VAMC's still complain of the loss of police officers shortly after they are trained. Lack of adequate pay continues to be the reason for most resignations.

National Field Representatives continue to monitor Agent Orange women veterans and former Prisoner of War examination and follow-up care problems reported during their regular visitation.

Vietnam Veteran Outreach Center are monitored on a regular basis by our National Field Representatives.

Indirect Full-Time Equivalent Employment (FTEE) reductions and indirect dollar reductions in the Resource Allocation and Budget Adjustments present major concerns for VA health care managers as they ponder over their Fiscal Year 1986 target allowance.

Both the Means Test and the User's Fee present additional concerns to hospital managers. Without additional funding and personnel they would not be able to accomplish their additional task.

Vertical cuts seem to be discussed more freely in management circles throughout the Department of Medicine and Surgery. Most health care facilities inform us that as a result of budget constraints and lack of hands-on caregivers they will consider closing wards during Fiscal Year 1986.

Medical Center Directors are also concerned that if some of the funding is restored, Regional Directors will assume the responsibility of distributing the funds many facilities may suffer.

## VAVS

Each Veterans Administration Medical Center has a local volunteer Advisory Committee made up of representatives of the organizations whose members participate in the Veterans Administration's Volunteer Service program for veteran patients in that facility. The volunteers who participate in the program are considered a part of the Medical Center Team that includes doctors, nurses, therapists, social workers, and support personnel. The Team is banded together for one purpose and goal; to help the veteran patient get well and return to a normal and productive life in the community.

The American Legion, as one of the eight founding member organizations in 1946, has realized the importance of this volunteer service program. To emphasize the importance of this program, The American Legion has a Medical Center VAVS Representative in each of the 172 Medical Centers, as well as Deputy and Associate Representatives on each local committee. The last computer printout from the Veterans Administration covering a six-month period from October 1984 to March 1985 indicated a total of 4,273 American Legion regular scheduled volunteers in 172 Medical Centers and 8 Independent Outpatient Clinics who donated a total of 367,921 volunteer hours, as well as occasional American Legion volunteers who donated a total of 48,466 hours, or a combined total of 416,387 volunteer hours in a six month period. It can be readily seen that with the steadily increasing number of volunteers plus the additional volunteer hours being contributed, that in the near future The American Legion will exceed 1,000,000 hours of Volunteer service each year in our Veterans Administration Medical Centers, Nursing Homes and Domiciliaries.

We have also improved upon our awards program for American Legion volunteers which has resulted in American Legion volunteers being recognized for their services in Medical Centers, Nursing Homes, State Veterans Homes and Nursing Homes after 300 hours of volunteer service. This, too, has attracted more Legion volunteers into the VAVS program.

The Chairman of the VA&R Commission, william F. Lenker, and the Director, Robert E. Lyngh, are both vitally interested in the volunteer program and urge American Legion members, who have the time and the desire to help their hospitalized veterans, to get involved in the program. Mr. Lyngh serves as the National VAVS Representative of The American Legion, and William C. Anderson, Special Assistant to the Director, as Deputy National VAVS Representative. Mr. Anderson serves as National Treasurer of the National Advisory Committe and is a member of the Executive Committee. Mr. Anderson has also instigated and spearheaded a drive for funds to increase the James H. Parke Memoral Youth Scholarship Award which is awarded to the outstanding youth volunteer in the VA Medical Center system.

There are so many new and innovative volunteer assignments in the Medical Centers that volunteers can virtually pick any job assignment which they feel that are qualified and have the expertise to handle.

## ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES

In order to present a claim informally, or formally, and especially to review a veteran's case folder, it is necessary that the veteran or his dependent designate The American Legion as their representative before the Veterans Administration. This is accomplished by completing VA Form 22-23, Power of Attorney. Those representatives who actively present and review case folders in Veterans Administration Regional Offices and Central Office in Washington, D.C. are known as Accredited Representatives of The American Legion.

These Service Officers have been recommended for accreditation by their respective Departments because of their knowledge and expertise in VA regulations; procedures in claims; and their knowledge of various programs of Federal benefits available to veterans and their dependents.

When a Department Commander or Department Adjutant wishes to accredit an individual in their Department, VA Form 2-21, Recommendation for Accreditation, is formally submitted to the Director, National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. When the Director, as National Certifying Officer, or the Special Assistant to the Director, as Deputy National Certifying Officer, has approved the form, it is transmitted to the General Counsel of the Veterans Administration for action. If approval is given by the General Counsel of that agency, the individual is issued official notification of his appointment, as an American Legion Accredited Representative. This accreditation remains in force until such time as the Director is notified that the accreditation should be cancelled. In no case is the request for accreditation or concellation referred directly to the General Counsel, it must be processed through the Director's office prior to submission to the Veterans Administration.

Periodically a review of American Legion Accredited Representatives is conducted to ascertain if any representatives should be removed from the rolls due to retirement, resignation, or death. By this review, we are able to notify the General Counsel of any concellations that might have been overlooked in the field. Additions to the roll and cancellations of representatives is a continuing process and is reported by a monthly bulletin from the Veterans Administration General Counsel's office. We continue to lead other service organizations in the number of accredited representatives listed in this bulletin.

## DISTRIBUTION OF VA RELEASES

An up-to-date library of reference materials, which includes VA Manuals, Regulations, Program Guides, Chief Medical Director's letters, Interim issues, etc., as well as other publications of interest to the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division, is maintained by the Administrative Unit of the Director's office. Changes, revisions, regulations, and articles of interest are distributed to the staff when they are received in order that everyone will be aware of any important changes in Federal benefits available to veterans and their dependents. Information of special interest to members of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and to the network of American Legion Service Officers is immediately sent to the field by means of Rehabilitation Bulletins and Memorandums.

Should a Department have need for a special VA publication and it is not available through the local Publication Officer at the station, a request should be sent to the Director's office. An attempt will be made through VA Central Office Publication Depot for the publication needed, providing, of course, that it is in stock and available to our office. Because of the Administration's cutback in budget, the number of each item has been drastically cut. If necessary, and no further printing of a specific item is planned, we will attempt to reproduce the item. Size and the number of pages will, of course, determine whether this is possible or not.

## PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATION

Again, as has occurred in previous reports, we have had several changes in staff due to retirements, resignations and promotions from July 1, 1984 through June 30, 1985. Thomas M. Schneiders, Assistant Director for Program Management, retired on March 31, 1985. Rodney S. Kirk, Information Management Specialist, was promoted to Assistant Director for Program Management. Lee Minnick, former Review Board Representative was promoted to Information Management Specialist. V. L. Larrimer, Jr., Supervisor, Veterans And Dependents Claims Unit, retired as of December 31, 1984. Carol Rutherford, Review Board Representative, was promoted to Supervisor, Veterans and Dependents Claims Unit. Walter D. Stone was transferred from the Appeals Unit to fill the position as Review Board Representative. David C. Daniels, former VA&R Claims Representative, was transferred to the Legislative Division as Assistant Director on November 1, 1984. On the clerical side, Sonja Parker, Medical Secretary; Lisa Marinucci, Secretary to the Deputy Director; and Miss Joyce Long, Secretary to the Chief of Claims, resigned their positions. New hires to replace these individuals are Lori Ann Watson, Margaret Dana, and Sandra Adams. To further realign staff organization, Philip Wilkerson, Chief of Claims, was promoted to Assistant Director for Claims. We are also continuing our training program of transferring Claims Representatives to our other units in Appeals and Review Boards for indoctrination and experience in all phases of claims work.

Staff organization is reflected by the following chart:

| | |
|---|---|
| Washington Office: | |
| Director | 1 |
| Administrative assistant | 1 |
| Special assistant to the director | 1 |
| Secretary | 1 |
| Subtotal | 4 |
| Deputy director | 1 |
| Secretary | 1 |
| Assistant director for program management | 1 |
| Secretary | 1 |
| Information management specialist | 1 |
| Assistant director for claims | 1 |
| Secretary | 1 |
| Chief of field service | 1 |
| Secretary | 1 |
| Field representatives | 5 |
| Supervisor, veterans and dependents claims unit | 1 |
| Claims representatives | 4 |
| Stenographer | 1 |
| Supervisor, board of veterans appeals unit | 1 |
| Appeals representatives | 5 |
| Secretary | 1 |
| Stenographer | 1 |
| Supervisor, defense department review boards | 1 |
| Review board representatives | 2 |
| Consultants: | |
| Medical | 2 |
| Medical secretary | 1 |
| Subtotal | 34 |
| Total Washington office | 38 |
| Insurance field offices: | |
| Philadelphia: | |
| Chief, insurance activities | 1 |
| Insurance representatives | 2 |
| Secretary | 1 |
| Stenographers | 2 |
| Subtotal | 6 |
| St. Paul: | |
| Supervisor, insurance activities | 1 |
| Secretary | 1 |
| Stenographer | 1 |
| Subtotal | 3 |
| Total staff: | |
| Washington office | 38 |
| Field offices | 9 |
| Total | 47 |

## STAFF FIELD ASSIGNMENTS

During this reporting period, the Director of the National Veterans Affairs Commission, Robert E. Lyngh, attended meetings of the National Executive Committee in October and May in Indianapolis, along with John F. Sommer, Jr., Deputy Director, and Thomas M. Schneiders, Assistant Director, who attended the Fall meeting; as well as the National Convention held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Mr. Lyngh also attended two of the National Leadership Workshops held in Syracuse, New York, and Mobile, Alabama. He also attended meetings in Oklahoma City, OK; Jekyll Island, GA; and a management meeting in Indianapolis, IN.

Following staff members attended National Leadership Workshops; Philip Wilkerson, Oklahoma City, OK and Fargo, ND; John F. Sommer, Jr., Las Vegas, NV, St. Louis, MO, and Cheyenne, WY. Rodney S. Kirk and Thomas M. Schneiders, Providence, RI, and Mr. Kirk also attended the Syracuse, NY meeting. Mr. Sommer, Deputy Director, attended the Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome Conference in Baltimore. MD. William C. Anderson, Deputy National VAVS Representative for the American Legion attended the National Advisory Committee meeting of the VAVS in Cincinnati, OH.

Other staff members attended Department and special meetings as follows: Edward McDonald, Department of Pennsylvania convention; Philip Wilkerson, Wilmington, DE; Higgins Lake, MI; Baltimore, MD and Fort Dix, NJ. Dr. Thomas FitzGerald, Medical Consultant, attended the Veterans Administration DM&S meeting in Chicago, IL; Thomas M. Schneiders, Colorado Springs, CO; John F. Sommer, Beckley, WV, Buffalo, NY and Lafayette, LA; and Rodney S. Kirk attended a special VA meeting in Dallas, TX.

Staff members attending the National Convention in Salt Lake City in addition to Mr. Lyngh were: John F. Sommer, Deputy Director, Thomas M. Schneiders, Dr. Thomas FitzGerald, Sharon Mather, Sylvia Salaz, and Rodney Kirk.

During this reporting period our Field Representatives made visitations to Veterans Administration Centers, Nursing Homes and Domiciliaries in the following states: Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Montana, Rhode Island, Maine, North Carolina, New York, West Virginia, Florida, Connecticut, Maryland, Vermont, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Arkansas, Missouri, South Carolina, Louisiana, New Hampshire, Colorado, Idaho, Virginia, Nebraska, Georgia, Iowa and California.

## CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Under authority of May 1958 NEC Resolution, we have continued the program of awarding a Certificate of Appreciation to officials of the Veterans Administration, upon their retirement or resignation, "for services rendered and cooperation extended in connection with The American Legion's rehabilitation program." Under criteria established in line with the enabling resolution, nominations for the award are submitted by Department or national officials of The American Legion twice a year. The nominations are considered by a committee of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission at meetings preceding the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Conference, and the National Convention. The committee recommends to the Commission the names of those considered deserving of the Certificate.

Twenty-eight Certificates of Appreciation have been awarded during the period July 1, 1984 through June 30, 1985, for an overall total of 900 since the program was initiated.

## CITATIONS FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

This Citation, authorized by the National Executive Committee in May 1956, seeks to recognize the long and faithful service of Post Service Officers and others. Nominations for the Citation are submitted by Department officials to the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director at any time; the Director, acting for the Chairman and members of the Commission, issues the award.

One hundred and thirteen Citations "for meritorious service and loyal cooperation in The American Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program" have been presented during the period July 1, 1984–June 30, 1985. Since this type of recognition and appreciation began, a total of 2,716 Citations for Meritorious Service have been presented.

# VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION REPORT

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

MRS. EVELYN STARR, Minnesota, *Chairman*

"Invest in America" was the challenge issued to every American Legion and Auxiliary member through National President Helen Adams Gardner's theme for 1984-1985. Her challenge resulted in members questioning the Who—What—and Why—should we "Invest in America? Annual reports from 52 Departments provided valuable information as to the Who—What—Why and How Units and Posts have planned and carried through programs benefitting all veterans.

Eight Regional Leadership Workshops were held, recording the largest attendance to date. The National Committee is especially grateful for the guidance and efforts put forth by The American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Staff members and National Commission members for having secured excellent speakers at each site. Topics discussed in depth dealt with the volunteers' increasingly valuable role in VA medical facilities and new and innovative approaches to bring cheer to those confined. The sharing of a family pet when a visit is made was an interesting possibility when and where it is allowed.

Department Service Officer presentations on "Things to do When a Veteran Dies" prompted much discussion, with the groups agreeing the topic should more rightfully be "Things to do Before a Veteran Dies." The exchange of Department publications concerning the subject was a welcomed addition to the agenda.

American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Staff members briefed Conference audiences as to the status of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation legislation and the need for American Legion and Auxiliary participation.

Divisional Chairmen bulletins dealt with "The Female Veteran", "Things to do When a Veteran Dies", "The Juniors and the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program", "Operation Post Home", and "Annual Reports and Awards." Each subject lent itself toward educating members as to new ways through which we can participate in the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program. The 1984-85 Annual Report stories and figures are a fascinating and outstanding picture of this past year's successes.

Reports indicate 17,861 veterans were assisted and/or entertained at 233 Operation Post Home locations and 4,484 Junior members were involved in the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program as VolunTeens, Field Service Volunteers, or through the Home Service Program. They visit veterans in hospitals, nursing homes, and in their own homes; make tray favors; help write letters; bake and deliver cheer baskets; play cards; and/or just simply listen while the veterans tell of his or her experiences. Their involvement, along with the Senior members, created a sense of each being equal contributors, regardless of age of the giver or receiver.

The SAL member has bcome an increasingly valued and enthusiastic part of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program. Their interest and participation is outstanding and stimulating.

The number of women serving in the military has consistently increased, which makes the need for inpatient and outpatient health care for women veterans a necessity. The bumper sticker "Women and Veterans Too" says much as to how women veterans' needs are being recognized and attended to in the community as well as in VA medical facilities. Units assisted and planned programs dealing with 5,428 women veterans. New equipment, with which to treat women veterans, is being installed in VA facilities and available services are now being made known.

In keeping with the Veterans Administration slogan "America is #1—Thanks to our Veterans", Units assisted 7,236 veterans through direct aid in the amount of $234,669.00 and contributed $356,559.00 in indirect aid to 13,104 veterans.

Christmas Gift Shops, Christmas programs and hospital programs, other than at Christmas, numbered 13,053, serving 569,022 veterans, at a cost of $2,090,799.00 In addition, Unit Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairmen planned activities for 99,294 veterans, totaling $737,318.000, while Department expenditures amounted to $737,318.000, while Department expenditures amounted to $628,656.00 or a grand total for Units and Departments of $4,022,858.00.

A total of 9,671 volunteers spent 792,772 hours giving service to the veteran other than as a Hospital Volunteer, Field Service Volunteer, or Home Service Volunteer.

The Field Service and Home Service Programs have grown substantially. American Legion and Auxiliary members are becoming more aware of the many and varied possibilities through which they can serve in either of the two somewhat new programs. As more veterans reach retirement age, they are joining the ranks of volunteers who choose to devote their free hours to help brighten the lives of those less fortunate. Department reports show 27,185 Home Service Volunteers devoted 786,819 hours and spent $459,608.00 while making quilts, slippers, baked goods, and gift shop items. Fifty Hour Pins were earned by 1020 Home Volunteers.

Five hundred seventy five Field Service Orientation Courses were held and 3,400 new Field Service Volunteers served at 3,877 nursing homes, institutions, and outpatient clinics. Fifty Hours Field Service Pins and Certificates were presented 722 volunteers.

Hospital Volunteers served in 172 VA medical centers and 127 other hospitals including military, State Veterans hospitals, and VA medical centers outside their Department. There were 1105 "NEW" Regularly Scheduled Volunteers recruited this year. Departments indicated thirteen 10,000 hour Awards and six 20,000 hour Award will be made.

The closing paragraph of a Unit report explains very clearly what we are accomplishing through our individual efforts under the Veterans Affairs and Regahilitation Progam. "By providing regular programs and projects for all our volunteers to work on, no matter how young or old, the Unit has created interest in all facets of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program. What better way to 'invest in America' than to invest in our veterans?"

## FIELD SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

MRS. CHRISTINE DAVIS, North Carolina, *Director*

How great it is to have completed another year of volunteer service to our veterans. Your many efforts to "Invest in America" have made it possible to accomplish many of our goals and to continue our Field Service programs. We must always emphasize the necessity of providing for our veterans who are in need.

We have recruited 3,400 new volunteers this year through the 575 orientation classes that you have sponsored. The loving care expressed by our volunteer Legionnairs, Auxiliary members, Juniors, SALs and non-affiliates is another "dividend" given to the veterans for their investment in America made so many years ago. The veteran is our most important asset and we must care for him at home, in a halfway house, in a nursing care facility, a day-care center, a foster home or any place that we find a veteran in need. The over 792,000 Hours of volunteer service given to our veterans this year by more than 18,000 volunteers is one way to show we do care for all of our veterans and are concerned for their well-being.

Our Field Service volunteers gave over 16,600 programs, serving more than 208,000 veterans, at a cost of almost $493,000.00 to supplement the needs of veterans. We provided transportation to doctors, dentists, church, for personal business, picnics, ball games, community affairs or just to "ride" around town and visit. More than 50,000 miles have been recorded for these services at an additional cost of over $15,000.00. All our efforts also included cooking, cleaning, sewing and the everyday chores of keeping a "happy home" for a veteran. We would really have a banner year of recorded hours and dollars if we could get our volunteers to keep accurate records of all their work. These records are most important and I hope that we can find a way to make them complete.

"Operation Post Home" is another way that covers 230 Posts aided our veterans this year. The possibilities of service are many by sponsoring educational, social and recreational events. Make your veterans aware of this additional activity at your Post. It is a good way to keep in touch and be aware of his needs. Over 200 Units and/or individuals chose to "Adopt a Veteran" and now more than 500 of these new "adoptees" are enjoying the special attention of their "Family."

Our veterans made it possible for all of us to be "stockholder" in this great nation in which we live, when they gave their all—to "Invest in America" so many years

ago. By continuing to provide for them through our volunteer service, we will be letting each one know that we are "keeping the faith" and are making the efforts to "secure" their future through the Field Service program.

## HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

MRS. BARBARA BICKLEY, Utah, *Director*

We as members of the American Legion Auxiliary have opened our hearts to "Invest in America" by helping hospitalizated veterans. We have shown volunteering does make a difference in their lives as well as our own.

Regularly scheduled volunteers are an important part of the Veterans Administration medical centers running smoothly. There are 13,151 American Legion Auxiliary, 441 VolunTeens, 4607 American Legion and 742 nonaffiliated volunteers working in our VAMCs as well as a total of 28,847 occasional volunteers.

The programs sponsored by our great Organization are many and have kept the patients occupied for all the holidays throughout the year. There were 915 Gift Shops as well as 12,750 other programs. During the summer months the veterans are kept busy with picnics, barbecues, fishing, boating, ball games as well as monthly birthday parties, dances, card parties, and bingo games during the entire year. One of the newer activities is having pet therapy and plant therapy programs; the veterans really enjoy the visitation with pets.

Volunteers are continually making lap robes and slippers and providing canteen books and other comfort items to them.

We are pleased to once again have so many Juniors, VolunTeens and SAL members participating in this program. They provide the veterans with so many hours of joy by making tray favors, cakes, cookies, and sending them letters and cards on holidays.

We are seeing more and more female veterans being hospitalized and have placed special emphasis on them. We contacted and provided them with personal items as well as bed and street clothes and also gave them hair cuts, shampoos, and permanents.

We are still expressing a great interest in the Adopt a Veteran Program and also Operation Post Home.

We have asked for you to become a part of the VAMC by becoming a volunteer and your reports have shown you went that extra mile to insure the veterans' happiness with kindness while being hospitalized. Your investment is paying off and is extremely appreciated.

## NATIONAL VAVS REPRESENTATIVE

MRS. DOROTHY GEZEL, Iowa

"Invest in America"—what better way can we of the American Legion Auxiliary VAVS portray our National President's theme than through service to our veterans in the 180 Veterans Administration medical centers.

The Annual Joint Reviews, with 100% reporting, have been studied, answered and recorded by this National VAVS Representative and also the VAVS Committee minutes from all VAMCs, which tell of the many activities our volunteers are performing. Congratulations to all 320 Representatives, Deputies and Associate Representatives attaining 100% attendance at the medical centers VAVS meetings. They will be presented a wallet size "Recognition Award" of appreciation. Also—congratulations to all who received the VA Outstanding Leadership Award.

It has been my privilege to attend and participate in four Leadership Conferences. Attendance was doubled from last year and this is most gratifying. Chiefs of Voluntary Service from VA medical centers presented interesting messages and the enthusiasm shown by those attending was great. Their desire to learn and serve has given the VA&R Program the life blood necessary for its success.

These past four years I have represented the American Legion Auxiliary on the Executive Committee of the VA National Advisory Committee. The last two meetings were in Cincinnati, Ohio and Washington, DC. The Cincinnati meeting was attended by 300 men and women, and what the delegates discovered was more new constructive ideas which can be used to produce more programs in their own VA medical centers. Also, those attending the four day seminar took part in several meetings and workshops. One of the highlights of the Conference was the presenta-

tion of the James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholarship Award. This year's award was given to James McHome from the VA medical center in North Carolina.

At the Washington, DC. meeting held in March, we were advised of the VA budget cuts proposed by President Reagan. Plans were made for the next VAVS Conference to be held in Reno, Nevada, October 25–27, 1985. Exciting plans are in progress for the VAVS 40th Anniversary to be held in Washington, DC. in 1986. We trust the American Legion Auxiliary will have good representation since all members who are VAVS volunteers since 1946 will be honored.

This past year, our VAVS Representatives and Deputies and volunteers accepted the challenge of "Invest in America." The dividends received are knowing that even one life has breathed easier because they were present and cared. This is to have really loved and served mankind. I feel a deep sense of pride knowing your contributions of time, talents, and knowledge are gifts given out of friendship and love and most certainly these are the most priceless contributions given to the human race. "America is #1" thanks to our veterans who "Invested in America", making our world a better place to live.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Financial Statements
December 31, 1984
With Supplementary Information

GEO. S. OLIVE & CO.

Clarence M. Bacon, National Commander
The American Legion
National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

We have examined the balance sheet of The American Legion National Headquarters as of December 31, 1984 and 1983 and the related statement of revenue, expenses and changes in fund balances for the year ended December 31, 1984. Our examinations were made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the aforementioned financial statements present fairly the financial position of The American Legion National Headquarters at December 31, 1984 and 1983 and the results of its operations and changes in its fund balances for the year ended December 31, 1984, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis.

Geo. S. Olive & Co.

Indianapolis, Indiana
March 22, 1985

PRACTICE OFFICE LOCATIONS
INDIANAPOLIS MARTINSVILLE
BLOOMINGTON MUNCIE
FRANKLIN RICHMOND
FORT WAYNE SELLERSBURG
MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CPA'S (AICPA)
OFFICES IN PRINCIPAL CITIES

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Balance Sheet

| ASSETS | December 31 1984 | 1983 |
|---|---|---|
| CURRENT FUND: | | |
| Cash | $ 2,356,183 | $ 955,326 |
| Accounts receivable: | | |
| Emblem Division | 75,884 | 48,957 |
| Publications Division | 284,477 | 283,246 |
| Other | 164,994 | 132,843 |
| Accrued interest on investments | 439,296 | 500,757 |
| Inventories: | | |
| Emblem Division | 777,741 | 815,576 |
| Publications Division | 1,167,482 | 193,833 |
| Prepaid expenses and supplies | 182,908 | 179,128 |
| Postal deposits and other advances | 31,102 | 55,395 |
| | 5,480,067 | 3,165,061 |
| Investments--note 2: | | |
| Segregated for Designated Funds | 8,110,385 | 7,117,988 |
| Segregated for Washington, D. C. building | 503,007 | 477,901 |
| Other | 16,887,061 | 16,574,743 |
| | 25,500,453 | 24,170,632 |
| Property and equipment: | | |
| Washington, D. C. real estate: | | |
| Land | 80,000 | 80,000 |
| Building | 815,183 | 815,183 |
| Furniture, fixtures, and equipment in: | | |
| National Headquarters building, Indianapolis, Indiana | 1,349,304 | 1,187,944 |
| Washington, D. C. building | 309,715 | 299,573 |
| Capitalized leases--note 3 | 499,362 | 491,862 |
| | 3,053,564 | 2,874,562 |
| Deduct: Accumulated depreciation and amortization | 1,934,310 | 1,671,575 |
| | 1,119,254 | 1,202,987 |
| | 32,099,774 | 28,538,680 |
| NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS--note 6: | | |
| Overseas Graves Decoration Fund: | | |
| Cash | 40,713 | 9,347 |
| Accrued interest on investments | 7,360 | 6,778 |
| Investments | 509,462 | 494,398 |
| | 557,535 | 510,523 |
| Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund: | | |
| Cash (overdraft) | 82,750 | --- |
| Accrued interest on investments | 52,875 | 27,166 |
| Investments | 4,644,540 | 4,150,015 |
| | 4,780,165 | 4,177,181 |
| | $37,437,474 | $33,226,384 |

See notes to financial statements.

Exhibit A

| LIABILITIES AND FUNDS | December 31 1984 | 1983 |
|---|---|---|
| CURRENT FUND: | | |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | $ 999,798 | $ 967,213 |
| Capitalized lease obligations--note 3 | 180,654 | 308,645 |
| Deposits on Emblem merchandise sales | 152,646 | 115,005 |
| Funds in transit to The American Legion Life Insurance Trust | 945,973 | 562,981 |
| Deferred dues income | 11,087,160 | 11,050,352 |
| Accrued vacation benefits | 299,228 | 290,248 |
| Provision for health insurance liability | 45,000 | 45,000 |
| Other liabilities | 37,970 | 37,728 |
| Total liabilities | 13,748,429 | 13,377,172 |
| Fund balance--notes 4 and 5: | | |
| Restricted funds: | | |
| Oratorical Contest Fund | 150,291 | 121,700 |
| Other restricted funds | 39,306 | 31,827 |
| Designated funds: | | |
| The Restricted Fund | 5,954,266 | 4,978,501 |
| The Reserve Fund | 2,156,119 | 2,139,487 |
| Direct Member Solicitation Fund | 755 | 156,752 |
| | 8,300,737 | 7,428,267 |
| Appropriated funds | 1,397,477 | 1,438,078 |
| Unappropriated | 8,653,131 | 6,295,163 |
| Total fund balance | 18,351,345 | 15,161,508 |
| | 32,099,774 | 28,538,680 |
| NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS--note 6: | | |
| Overseas Graves Decoration Fund: | | |
| Fund balance | 557,535 | 510,523 |
| | 557,535 | 510,523 |
| Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund: | | |
| Fund balance | 4,780,165 | 4,177,181 |
| | 4,780,165 | 4,177,181 |
| | $37,437,474 | $33,226,384 |

Exhibit B
Sheet 1

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Statement of Revenue, Expenses and
Changes in Fund Balances
Current Fund

| | Year Ended December 31 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1984 | | | | 1983 |
| | Unappropriated | Appropriated Funds | Designated and Restricted Funds | Total Current Fund | Total Current Fund |
| REVENUE: | | | | | |
| National dues | $ 13,953,081 | | | $ 13,953,081 | $14,084,208 |
| Sales of Emblem items | 4,676,588 | | | 4,676,588 | 4,516,330 |
| Advertising revenue | 2,810,010 | | | 2,810,010 | 3,046,671 |
| Investment income | 2,091,056 | | $ 592,107 | 2,683,163 | 2,253,208 |
| American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation income received--note 7 | 580,612 | | | 580,612 | 585,690 |
| Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion Life Insurance Trust--note 8 | 679,575 | | 504,062 | 1,183,637 | 832,504 |
| Restricted contributions | 42,500 | | 10,000 | 52,500 | 93,230 |
| Other income | 713,612 | | 529,024 | 1,242,636 | 1,000,551 |
| | 25,547,034 | | 1,635,193 | 27,182,227 | 26,392,392 |
| EXPENSES: | | | | | |
| Salaries | 5,564,895 | | | 5,564,895 | 5,255,478 |
| Employee benefits--note 9 | 1,245,329 | | | 1,245,329 | 1,286,057 |
| Cost of Emblem items sold | 2,786,561 | | | 2,786,561 | 2,649,172 |
| Direct publication expenses | 6,787,613 | | | 6,787,613 | 6,232,027 |
| Executive and staff travel | 609,588 | | | 609,588 | 605,993 |
| Commission and committee | 1,224,782 | | | 1,224,782 | 1,119,914 |
| Operational | 1,753,206 | | | 1,753,206 | 1,692,926 |
| Office | 956,817 | | | 956,817 | 953,814 |
| Occupancy | 752,032 | | | 752,032 | 786,113 |
| Special projects and programs | 1,107,953 | | 1,163,013 | 2,270,966 | 1,212,528 |
| | 22,788,776 | | 1,163,013 | 23,951,789 | 21,794,022 |
| EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES | 2,758,258 | | 472,180 | 3,230,438 | 4,598,370 |
| FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR | 6,295,163 | $ 1,438,078 | 7,428,267 | 15,161,508 | 10,563,138 |
| INTERFUND TRANSFERS--note 4 | ( 400,290) | | 400,290 | --- | --- |
| Adjustment to appropriated fund balance--note 5 | | ( 40,601) | | ( 40,601) | --- |
| FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR | $ 8,653,131 | $ 1,397,477 | $8,300,737 | $ 18,351,345 | $15,161,508 |

See notes to financial statements.

(Exhibit B Sheet 2)

Exhibit B
Sheet 2

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances
Designated and Restricted Funds
Year Ended December 31, 1984

| | Designated Funds | | | Restricted Funds | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | The Restricted Fund | The Reserve Fund | Direct Member Solicitation Fund | Oratorical Contest Fund | Other Restricted Funds | Total Designated And Restricted Funds |
| REVENUE: | | | | | | |
| Investment income | $ 575,475 | $ 16,632 | | | | $ 592,107 |
| Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion Life Insurance Trust--note 8 | | | $ 395,062 | $109,000 | | 504,062 |
| Restricted contributions | | | | | $10,000 | 10,000 |
| Income from Direct Member Solicitation Program | | | 529,024 | | | 529,024 |
| | 575,475 | 16,632 | 924,086 | 109,000 | 10,000 | 1,635,193 |
| EXPENSE: | | | | | | |
| Special projects and programs | | | 1,080,083 | 80,409 | 2,521 | 1,163,013 |
| EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES | 575,475 | 16,632 | ( 155,997) | 28,591 | 7,479 | 472,180 |
| FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR | 4,978,501 | 2,139,487 | 156,752 | 121,700 | 31,827 | 7,428,267 |
| INTERFUND TRANSFERS--note 4 | 400,290 | | | | | 400,290 |
| FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR | $5,954,266 | $ 2,156,119 | $ 755 | $150,291 | $39,306 | $8,300,737 |

(Exhibit B Sheet 1)

See notes to financial statements.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1--SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

General:
The American Legion National Headquarters (the Legion) is a national veterans organization which was declared to be a corporate body by an Act of the United States Congress on September 16, 1919. The Legion acquired all of the assets and assumed all of the liabilities of the predecessor unincorporated national organization of the same name.

Basis of Presentation:
The Legion generally reports for financial statement purposes on the accrual method of accounting, recognizing income when earned and expenses when incurred.

The Legion maintains its accounts on a fund accounting basis wherein the accountability for certain segments of its operations are presented in specific designated and restricted fund balances. Further, the Legion has designated certain amounts for future projects or purposes, which amounts are presented as appropriated funds in the accompanying financial statements.

The revenue and expenses of nonexpendable funds are not included in the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances--Current Fund. Instead, they are recorded directly to the nonexpendable funds involved as set forth in the footnotes to the financial statements.

The amounts shown for 1983 in the accompanying Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances--Current Fund are included only to provide a basis for comparison with 1984 amounts.

Accounts Receivable:
The direct charge-off method is used to account for losses in collection of accounts receivable. An allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable is considered unnecessary by the Legion because all significant accounts expected to be uncollectible have been written off.

Inventories:
Inventories, which consist of Emblem items held for sale and magazine paper and publication rights, are valued at the lower of cost or market. Supplies which are not intended for sale are expensed when purchased.

Investments:
Investments are recorded at cost. Premiums or discounts on investments are generally recognized at the time of disposal or maturity.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

Property and Equipment:
Furniture, fixtures and equipment are carried at cost and are depreciated beginning in the year after acquisition on the straight-line method based on the estimated useful lives of the assets involved. Leasehold improvements and repairs are expensed when incurred.

Depreciation on the Washington, D. C. building, which was constructed in 1951, is computed on the straight-line method using a fifty-year life. Beginning in 1969, investments approximately equal to the accumulated depreciation on the building have been segregated. Income on these investments is unrestricted.

Income:
Dues are recognized as income in the applicable membership period which is on a calendar-year basis.

Income from The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation and The American Legion Life Insurance Trust are recorded when received. These receipts are for projects and programs conducted in the year of receipt.

Pension Plan:
The Legion has a defined-benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees, as well as those of certain affiliated and subordinated groups. The plan was established in 1944 by vote of the Legion's National Convention. Contributions to the plan are made by the Legion and other participating groups on the basis of annual actuarial valuations. The annual cost, as determined by the actuary, is computed using the aggregate-cost method and includes in normal cost any past service costs.

Federal Income Tax:
The Legion is exempt from federal income tax (except on unrelated business income) under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 2--INVESTMENTS (CURRENT FUND):

The cost and market value of Current Fund investments are as follows:

| | December 31 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1984 | | 1983 | |
| | Cost | Market Value | Cost | Market Value |
| Segregated for Designated Funds: | | | | |
| U. S. Government obligations | $ 7,832,924 | $ 8,093,383 | $ 6,988,717 | $ 6,803,000 |
| Accrued interest--restricted | 188,110 | 188,110 | 125,349 | 125,349 |
| Uninvested cash | 89,351 | 89,351 | 3,922 | 3,922 |
| | 8,110,385 | 8,370,844 | 7,117,988 | 6,932,271 |
| Segregated for Washington, D. C. building: | | | | |
| U. S. Government obligations | 503,007 | 489,506 | 477,901 | 447,586 |
| Other: | | | | |
| U. S. Government obligations | 16,687,061 | 16,946,581 | 16,474,743 | 16,024,407 |
| Certificates of deposit | 200,000 | 200,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| | 16,887,061 | 17,146,581 | 16,574,743 | 16,124,407 |
| Total investments | $25,500,453 | $26,006,931 | $24,170,632 | $23,504,264 |

NOTE 3--CAPITAL AND OPERATING LEASES:

The Legion has entered into lease agreements (which are accounted for as capital leases) for the rental of computer and copying equipment. The Legion has options to purchase the equipment or to extend the leases at the end of the original lease terms. The Legion is liable for property taxes, insurance, and repairs and maintenance in connection with the leased equipment. Cost and accumulated amortization of capitalized leases were $499,362 and $299,700 at December 31, 1984 and $491,862 and $199,800 at December 31, 1983. Future minimum payments on these leases, together with the present value of the payments, are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Years ending December 31: | |
| 1985 | $152,780 |
| 1986 | 28,104 |
| 1987 | 34,988 |
| Total future minimum payments | 215,872 |
| Less: Amount representing interest (approximately 16%) | 35,218 |
| Present value of future minimum payments | $180,654 |

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

The Legion also rents other computer equipment, copiers, and cash registers under operating leases. Total rental expense on these operating leases was approximately $96,000 in 1984 and $145,000 in 1983.

In addition, the Legion has a lease with the State of Indiana for rental of the National Headquarters building in Indianapolis through November, 1985. According to the terms of the lease, in lieu of rental payments the Legion is required to maintain the interior of the building, as well as provide adequate insurance on the building. The cost of maintenance and insurance approximated $281,000 in 1984 and $260,000 in 1983. The Legion has the option of renewing the lease on the same terms through November, 1989.

NOTE 4--RESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS:

Receipts which are restricted by the donor are credited to the appropriate restricted fund, against which all expenditures for the related project or program are charged. Periodically, the Legion may add to restricted funds through allocations from unappropriated funds for specific future purposes and projects.

The Restricted Fund, a designated fund, is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund, as well as principal, can be expended only on the recommendation of the National Finance Committee and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee at two successive meetings. It is the policy of The American Legion to transfer 10% of the prior year's net income to the Restricted Fund. The effect of this for 1984 is $400,290.

The Reserve Fund, a designated fund, also is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund may be used for the general operations of the Legion, but the principal can be expended only:

(a) By action of the Legion at its national convention, or

(b) By two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee in two successive meetings not less than sixty days apart.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 5--APPROPRIATED FUNDS AND INTERFUND TRANSFERS:

There were no interfund transfers between unappropriated and appropriated funds. The balances of appropriated funds were as follows:

| | December 31 | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1984 | 1983 |
| Publications Reserve | $ 397,939 | $ 397,939 |
| Real Estate Reserve | 841,977 | 841,977 |
| Convention Reserve | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Employee Insurance Premium Stabilization Reserve | 57,561 | 98,162 |
| Totals | $1,397,477 | $1,438,078 |

During 1984, the National Finance Commission approved reducing the Employee Insurance Premium Stabilization Reserve to offset an increase in health insurance premiums. This action resulted in a reduction of the reserve of $40,601.

NOTE 6--NONEXPENDABLE FUNDS:

The earnings of the Overseas Graves Decoration Fund are being used to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those who served in the United States armed forces who are buried overseas. The Fund is to continue at the will of the National Convention of the Legion or the National Executive Committee. The Fund's trust agreement may be amended, changed or succeeded at the will of the National Executive Committee, provided that the purpose for which the Fund was created is retained.

In October, 1974, the National Executive Committee approved the establishment of a life membership plan available to any member of a participating department. In accordance with the plan, the assets of the Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund are segregated in a trust account from which funds equal to the annual dues of life members are withdrawn for current operations each year. The trust agreement provides that the Legion has the right to withdraw part or all of the assets of the trust account and to modify or terminate the trust agreement at its discretion.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

Changes in Nonexpendable Funds during the year ended December 31, 1984 are as follows:

| | Overseas Graves Decoration Fund | Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund |
|---|---|---|
| Revenue: | | |
| Paid-Up-For-Life membership dues collected | | $ 657,390 |
| Investment income | $ 59,071 | 476,866 |
| | 59,071 | 1,134,256 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Membership dues withdrawn | | 451,958 |
| Decoration of graves: | | |
| European Theatre | 11,529 | |
| Philippine Islands | 500 | |
| Administrative expense | 30 | 67,292 |
| Trust fees | | 12,022 |
| | 12,059 | 531,272 |
| Excess of revenue over expenses | 47,012 | 602,984 |
| Fund balances, January 1, 1984 | 510,523 | 4,177,181 |
| Fund balances, December 31, 1984 | $557,535 | $4,780,165 |

The cost and market value of investments in the Nonexpendable Funds are as follows:

| | December 31 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1984 | | 1983 | |
| | Cost | Market Value | Cost | Market Value |
| Overseas Graves Decoration Fund: | | | | |
| U. S. Government obligations | $ 509,462 | $ 513,960 | $ 494,398 | $ 487,782 |
| Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund: | | | | |
| U. S. Government obligations | $2,694,558 | $2,750,294 | $1,358,622 | $1,362,893 |
| Commercial paper | 217,000 | 217,000 | 217,000 | 217,000 |
| Money market accounts | 1,110,694 | 1,110,694 | 2,452,012 | 2,452,012 |
| Common stocks | 622,288 | 702,038 | 122,381 | 174,987 |
| Total investments | $4,644,540 | $4,780,026 | $4,150,015 | $4,206,892 |

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 7--AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND CORPORATION:

The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation (the Endowment Fund) was incorporated in 1925 as a not-for-profit corporation with perpetual existence to act as trustee for the American Legion Endowment Fund, which was created to provide permanent funding for rehabilitation of American veterans and assistance to orphans of veterans. In August, 1946, the Legion transferred securities having a market value of $2,001,000 to the Endowment Fund. The assets transferred have been held segregated by the Endowment Fund and the principal related to the 1946 transfer, which had a market value of $1,655,302 at December 31, 1984, may be withdrawn by the Legion, if needed, for rehabilitation of veterans or assistance to orphans of veterans.

Income earned on the investments of the Endowment Fund, net of administrative expenses, is payable to the Legion to support its programs for the above-mentioned purposes. In addition to the amount received from the Endowment Fund of $580,612 in 1984, there was $164,350 at December 31, 1984 in net investment earnings of the Endowment Fund, which was payable to the Legion.

NOTE 8--LIFE INSURANCE TRUST:

In connection with The American Legion's Life Insurance Plan, the Legion has created a Trust to which the First National Bank of Kansas City, Missouri, as Trustee, holds legal title. The accumulated earnings of the Trust funds and any experience rating refunds and dividends received from the insurors, which aggregate to approximately $5,126,000 as of December 31, 1984, are available for any of the following purposes, if approved by the Legion:

(a) To increase the Trust fund.

(b) To reduce or pay in full the life insurance premiums thereafter due from participants.

(c) To provide additional life insurance benefits for the participants.

(d) To make refunds to the participants.

(e) To make distributions to the Legion in support of its activities and programs serving the interest of the Legion and its members, provided that such distributions are not disapproved in writing by a majority of the participants.

In accordance with the provisions of item (e) above, the Legion's National Executive Committee has approved partial funding of the oratorical contest, Boys' Nation, American Legion Baseball, and other programs of the Legion. At December 31, 1984, $844,042 in Trust Funds had been approved for use in designated programs during 1985.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 9--PENSION PLAN:

Pension expense under the defined-benefit pension plan in which the Legion participates was $508,105 in 1984. Accumulated plan benefit information, as estimated by the plan's actuary, and net assets of the plan allocable to The American Legion National Headquarters were as follows:

| | January 1 | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1984 | 1983 |
| Actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits: | | |
| Vested | $ 9,480,679 | $ 9,087,237 |
| Nonvested | 1,029,383 | 1,009,019 |
| Total | $10,510,062 | $10,096,256 |
| Net assets available for plan benefits (at market value). | $11,684,688 | $10,889,727 |

The assumed rate of return used in determining the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits was 6%.

NOTE 10--LITIGATION:

The Legion is currently involved as a co-defendant in several legal actions. It is the opinion of the National Judge Advocate that any ultimate liability of the Legion will not be material to the financial statements.

GEO. S. OLIVE & CO.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Clarence M. Bacon, National Commander
The American Legion
National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

OPINION ON SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

We have examined and reported separately on the basic financial statements of The American Legion National Headquarters as of December 31, 1984 and 1983 and for the year ended December 31, 1984.

The examinations referred to above were made for the purpose of forming an opinion on those financial statements of The American Legion National Headquarters taken as a whole. The supplementary information as listed in the accompanying table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such supplementary information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the examination of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Geo. S. Olive & Co.

Indianapolis, Indiana
March 22, 1985



PRACTICE OFFICE LOCATIONS:
INDIANAPOLIS MERRILLVILLE
BLOOMINGTON MUNCIE
EVANSVILLE RICHMOND
FORT WAYNE VALPARAISO
MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN GROUP OF C.P.A. FIRMS WITH OFFICES IN PRINCIPAL CITIES

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Analysis of Unappropriated Revenue
And Expenses by Function
Year Ended December 31, 1984

| | General Functions | | | | | | Self-Supporting Functions | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | National Officers, Commissions And Committees | Internal Programs (primarily Indianapolis) | External Activities (primarily Washington, D. C.) | Administration Indianapolis | Administration Washington, D. C. | Total General Functions | Emblem Division | Publications Division | Total All Functions |
| REVENUE: | | | | | | | | | |
| National dues | | | | | | $ 7,810,921 | | $6,342,160 | $13,953,081 |
| Sales of Emblem items | | | | | | | $4,676,588 | | 4,676,588 |
| Advertising revenue | | | | | | | | 2,810,010 | 2,810,010 |
| Investment income | | | | | | 2,091,056 | | | 2,091,056 |
| American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation income received | | | | | | 580,612 | | | 580,612 |
| Amounts withdrawn from American Legion Life Insurance Trust Fund | | | | | | 679,575 | | | 679,575 |
| Restricted contributions | | | | | | 42,500 | | | 42,500 |
| Other income | | | | | | 535,973 | 2,486 | 175,153 | 713,612 |
| | | | | | | 11,560,637 | 4,679,074 | 9,327,323 | 25,547,034 |
| EXPENSES: | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries | $ 233,980 | $1,965,818 | $584,568 | $ 1,406,071 | $416,982 | 4,585,419 | 423,331 | 556,145 | 5,564,895 |
| Employee benefits | 48,712 | 441,327 | 131,078 | 312,303 | 92,594 | 1,026,014 | 94,536 | 124,779 | 1,245,329 | |
| Cost of Emblem items sold | | | | | | | 2,786,561 | | 2,786,561 |
| Direct publication expenses | | | | | | | | 6,787,613 | 6,787,613 |
| Executive and staff travel | 298,149 | 184,583 | 49,676 | 15,189 | 12,480 | 560,277 | 26,925 | 22,386 | 609,588 |
| Commission and committee | 1,170,660 | 40,724 | | 13,398 | | 1,224,782 | | | 1,224,782 |
| Operational | 5,054 | 1,107,205 | 58,029 | 213,682 | 22,626 | 1,406,596 | 224,469 | 122,141 | 1,753,206 |
| Office | 1,220 | 231,889 | 128,982 | 139,090 | 73,426 | 572,607 | 247,679 | 136,531 | 956,817 |
| Occupancy | | 73,664 | 124 | ( 250,859) | 195,362 | 18,291 | 227,865 | 505,876 | 752,032 |
| Special projects and programs | 12,481 | 993,927 | 38,431 | 47,176 | 15,938 | 1,107,953 | | | 1,107,953 |
| | $1,748,256 | $5,039,137 | $988,888 | $ 1,895,250 | $829,408 | 10,501,939 | 4,031,366 | 8,255,471 | 22,788,776 |
| EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES | | | | | | $ 1,038,698 | $ 647,708 | $1,071,852 | $ 2,758,258 |

Schedule 2

THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Reconciliation of Audited Financial
Statements to Internal Financial Statements
Year Ended December 31, 1984

| | Total Current Fund |
|---|---|
| EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES--INTERNAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Page 1 | $2,758,258 |
| ADD: Excess of revenue over expenses for certain designated and restricted funds not included in internal financials--principally The Restricted Fund | 472,180 |
| EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES--AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS--exhibit B, sheet 1 (page 5) | $3,230,438 |

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

MRS. WAYNE GARDNER (HELEN), National President

We have faced many challenges as a nation this year; however, as an organization, we have made an "Investment in America" because we care, because we are the nation's foremost patriotic women's organization.

While our primary concern is for the veteran, we extended that concern to every citizen, for it is on the streets and in the homes of all America that the spirit of freedom lives. It is this spirit that we seek to prepare for all times.

As the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, I have traveled to each of our fifty states, Central America, Europe, as well as the Far East. My travels have reinforced the fact that America is still the most respected country in the world with the American family serving as the backbone of strength. This is also what our organization represents. Another point which my travels revealed to me is the mutual dependence and need for support between our country and our allies.

If you were to read through our annual Committee Chairmen reports, you would find the American Legion Auxiliary continues to be a powerful volunteer force, for our members have again volunteered more than 6,500,000 hours in our programs this year.

We have invested over $4,885,100 in programs specifically for America's veterans in the Veterans Administration medical facilities and in their home communities.

Over 70,200 American flags were presented to youth groups, churches, civic organizations, communities, and hospitals. More than 2,600 certificates were presented to the business community for flying a lighted American flag on a 24-hour basis. Our Units contributed nearly $53,000 for the renovation of the Statue of Liberty project. Many of the Units participated in naturalization classes and ceremonies for new citizens.

The American Legion Auxiliary has invested in its membership with Departments reporting donations of over $61,000. A total of $51,000 was disbursed to help the members in desperate need through the Auxiliary Emergency Fund program.

Three major programs received special attention under the Children and Youth program; namely, Suicide and Youth, Missing Children, and Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Unit Members showed their enthusiasm and love for children by volunteering 1,931,000 hours to assist 1,100,000 young people. A total of $3,168,852 was reported for all Children and Youth activities.

Involvement in Special Olympics continued to increase as nearly 3,400 Units worked as coaches, huggers, typists, physical trainers, or just "buddies." Cookies were baked and lunches served. A total of nearly $315,000 was spent for these special people.

Many other groups and agencies received financial assistance totaling $526,000. Some of the agencies included were Cancer Research, United Fund, Reye's Syndrome, Mental Health, Muscular Dystrophy, and Ronald McDonald Houses.

Over 45,000 members spent $442,800 and volunteered 917,000 hours to provide for the aged. Our members volunteered over 1,207,000 hours and expended over $1,808,000 in community service projects. Community service projects to assist the youth groups alone amounted to $264,000 with a total of 16,853 members volunteering 184,205 hours. Thousands of books and magazines were donated to nursing homes, hospitals and schools.

Nearly 67,000 members donated 381,000 hours and raised $848,058 for health drives and charity.

Over 1,900 scholarships totaling over $642,000 were presented by our organization this year throughout America. Many of our Units participated in Career Education as well.

The Foreign Relations Committee had a three-phase program this year, namely providing a shelter for the helpless children in El Salvador, working diligently with the National League of Families for the safe return of all Americans from Southeast

Asia and supporting the efforts of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, awarding internships to train people for this important assignment.

Again this year, over $2,000,000 was expended so that 21,000 girls could attend Girls State sessions, which were staffed by 8,858 dedicated Auxiliary members and 532 Junior counselors.

Our Junior members joined in fund drives, served as teachers' aides, tutors, candy stripers, babysitters, took CPR and Red Cross courses, sponsored beautification programs, made gifts and toys for hospitalized children and also volunteered many hours to Special Olympics.

The American Legion Auxiliary's Legislative program knows the importance of keeping a watchful eye on veterans' benefits, legislation involving youth and our nation's defense, and economic issues which affect our members.

Again, we have made a tremendous effort, as we have raised and reinvested well over $26,500,000 in America this year.

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